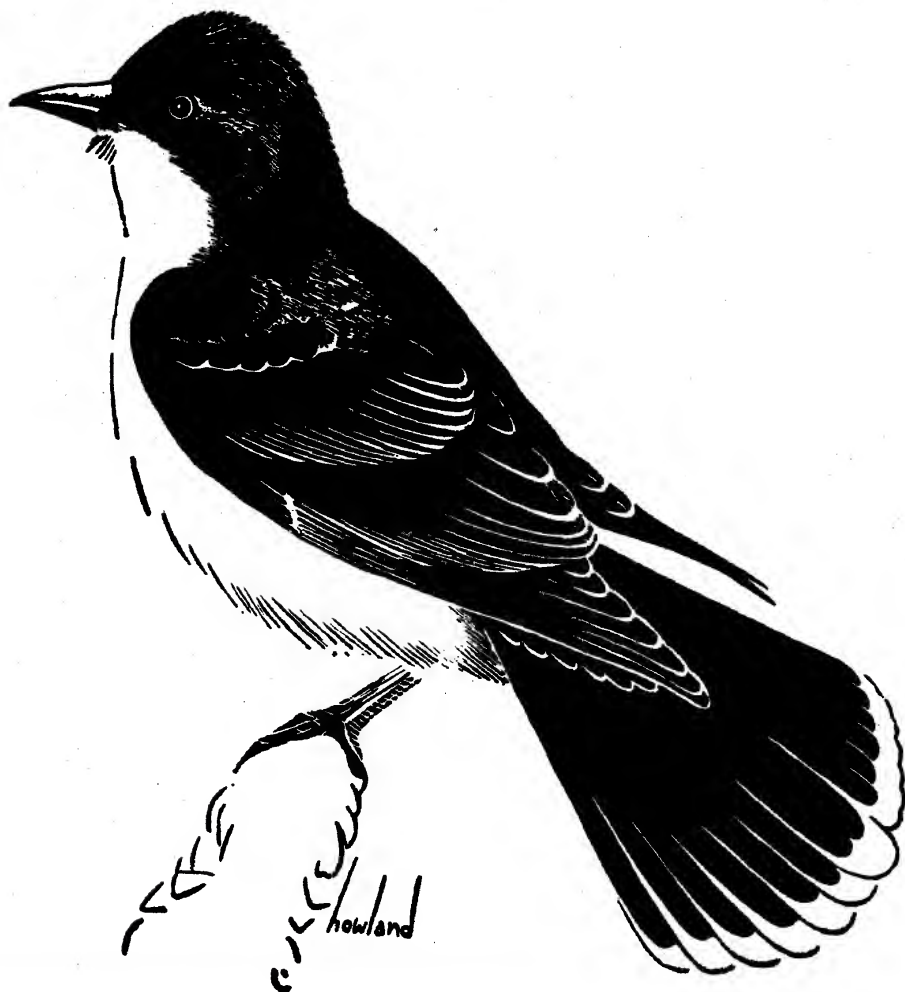


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**BLACK-TAILED GULL (*Larus crassirostris*)
AT JONES BEACH, NASSAU COUNTY
31 JAN-1 FEB 1999; FIRST RECORD FOR NEW YORK STATE**

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On Sunday, 31 Jan 1999, we were following our typical birding route along the beaches and inlets of Jones Beach, Nassau County. We arrived late in the day and were anxious to check a few productive spots before dusk. Our initial destination, Zach's Bay, was almost birdless and so we decided instead to look through the gulls that usually hang around Parking Field 6, just east of the Jones Beach water tower. As we walked onto the boardwalk, Guthrie made a quick scan of the 50 or so gulls roosting in a tight knot on the sand between us and the ocean. The majority were Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) with a few Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*) mixed in. Within a few seconds, Guthrie said he thought had a 'Lesser' meaning Lesser Black-backed Gull, (*L. fuscus graellsii*). I set my telescope down and soon had the bird in view at the left hand edge of the flock. Our immediate impression was that it looked small - only a little larger than an adult Ring-billed Gull standing next to it. Maybe it was just the angle or did we have something really interesting? We were both aware of the recent reports of a Black-tailed Gull (*L. crassirostris*) from Manasquan Inlet in neighboring New Jersey and this exciting possibility quickly came to mind. Could this be a Black-tailed Gull?

To get a better look, we stepped off the boardwalk and climbed up a bank of sand trapped against a snow fence. The bird was less than 30 meters from us. Through the scope at ~ 30x, the shape and patterning of the bill was very striking. This was no Lesser Black-backed Gull! The yellow bill was too narrow and elongated and tipped with broad smudge of red transected by a broad subterminal black band. The iris was a striking lemon yellow and we could easily make out a blood red orbital ring. The mantle was a uniform slate gray, lacking the bluish wash typical of the *graellsii* race of Lesser Black-backed Gull, and the legs were dull

lemon yellow. We knew immediately that we were indeed looking at an adult Black-tailed Gull (*L. crassirostris*). This better view confirmed the small size - just a little bigger than the adjacent Ring-billed Gulls, but with a noticeably longer primary projection.

Although sure of the identification, we had yet to see the broad tail band for which this species is named. As Guthrie stood poised with his camera mounted on a tripod, Wilson took a few paces forward causing the nearest Ring-billed Gulls to stand up and shuffle back a few paces. The Black-tailed Gull did the same thing, briefly flexing its wings, showing the striking pattern of the spread tail, long and immaculate snow white upper tail coverts contrasting with a broad black band. The bird quickly settled again, lying down and closing its eyes. We gave each other a silent thumbs up and then used my cellular phone to alert Tony Lauro and Patricia Lindsay, who we knew were in the general area.

The Black-tailed Gull seemed relatively undisturbed by our presence as we stood a few meters away, quietly taking pictures and looking carefully at its plumage. This was clearly an adult bird. The dark gray mantle lacked any traces of brown mottling and contrasted with the black outermost primaries, which were freshly molted, complete with relatively unfrayed white feather tips. The head and nape were immaculate white, lacking any of the brown flecking (especially on the nape) that is typical of basic plumage.

After 10 or 15 minutes, a number of Ring-billed Gulls took off suddenly and flew towards the busy parking lot. Many people provide scraps of food here and the gulls are always alert to scavenging opportunities. The Black-tailed Gull woke and followed, flying briefly over the concession building and then swinging back into the midst of the roosting flock. During this brief flight, we were able to get better looks at the tail. The black rectrices (tail feathers) were tipped with white and framed by the white uppertail coverts and an entirely white outermost rectrix on each side. [Subsequent examination of the photographs revealed the white bases to the tail feathers.] Broad white tips to the secondaries and inner primaries formed a prominent trailing edge to the wing. In flight, the Black-tailed Gull looked decidedly longer winged than Ring-billed Gull, with a more buoyant flight style.

Later the gull took off again, this time spooked by beachgoers on the ocean side, and headed west, directly into the fast setting sun. We managed to keep track with binoculars, following it further down the beach, where it landed amidst another large roost of gulls near the West Bathhouse building. In the ten or fifteen minutes it took us to drive down to the second roost, it had broken up, with the birds moving offshore for the night. In the gloom, we could make out hundreds of birds on the water some 500 meters offshore but it was just too dark to identify them.

Happily, the bird was rediscovered at first light the following morning (1 Feb 1999), this time in Parking Field 6 itself, where it was watched and enjoyed by many local birders throughout the day. Again, the bird consorted with Ring-billed Gulls, even accepting donations of bread from grateful birders. Other than one unconfirmed report from the early morning, the Black-tailed Gull was not seen the following day or during the following weeks.

IDENTIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Identification of adult or near adult Black-tailed Gull is relatively straightforward. The presence of crisp white tips to the outermost primaries, slate gray, rather than brown, wing coverts and lack of head streaking indicated that the Jones Beach bird was a full adult recently molted into alternate plumage (Ujihara and Ujihara, 1992; MacTavish, 1998; Lethaby and Bangma 1998). The three most likely confusion species are Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), Band-tailed Gull (*L. belcheri*) and Olrog's Gull (*L. atlanticus*). Adult Band-tailed Gull in alternate plumage bears the closest resemblance, having an unmarked white head, striking yellow legs and rather similar patterning on the tail and bill. This species can be quickly excluded however, because it has a darkly pigmented eye at all ages, a much darker mantle color (nearly jet black) and lacks white primary tips. Olrog's Gull is very similar to Band-tailed Gull and the two were once lumped as a single species. Olrog's Gull is even heavier than Band-tailed Gull, with a more massive bill (Enticott and Tipling, 1997; Lethaby and Bangma 1999). Second alternate (and sometimes third basic) Lesser Black-backed Gull have a similar mantle color and can show a prominent tail band, but this is rarely as extensive or neatly-defined as that of Black-tailed Gull. In addition, a Lesser Black-backed Gull would appear significantly larger relative to Ring-billed Gull, with a shorter bill and deeper gonydeal angle.

Traditionally known as "Japanese Gull", Black-tailed Gull breeds in coastal habitats bordering the Sea of Japan. In winter, birds spread out over a long arch from Sakhalin Island in Russia through the Japanese Archipelago and Korean Peninsula, reaching as far south as Hong Kong (Brazil, 1990; Viney et al. 1996; Enticott and Tipling, 1997). Although an Asiatic species with a fairly restricted distribution, there is a rapidly growing number of records from the east coast of North America. Beginning with an adult in Maryland in 1984, there have been other well-documented sightings from Virginia, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (reviewed in Lethaby and Bangma, 1998). As far as we are aware this is the first record of Black-tailed Gull in New York State.

Initial reports outside of Alaska were met with skepticism and assumed to be ship-assisted. The ever growing number of records, involving birds of different ages, argues instead for natural vagrancy. We would suggest that birds enter North America through southern Alaska by following the almost continuous chain of islands that rim the North Pacific. Some birds appear to continue down the west coast of Canada and the United States, even reaching Mexico and Belize (one record each), while others take an overland route to reach the Atlantic coast - a hypothesis supported by the discovery of an adult in southern Manitoba in June 1987 (Knapton, 1990; Holder, 1992). In its normal range, Black-tailed Gull shows a strong preference for marine habitats and may cross the continent rapidly, preferring not to linger in freshwater areas.

The recent occurrence of at least two different birds in New Jersey (two separate individuals at Cape May Point and later one individual at Manasquan Inlet) had primed us to the possibility that the species could wander north into New York State. It is interesting to ponder on how many Black-tailed Gulls might have been present along the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf Coast during the winter of 1998 and 1999. A reasonable estimate seems to be a minimum of three. In addition to the New Jersey birds, two adults were seen simultaneously on the eastern shore of Virginia, with one remaining at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel through the rest of the winter. Based on the dates and detailed plumage descriptions, the New Jersey and Virginia sightings may involve the same individuals. A little over a week after the New York sighting, another - clearly different - bird, this time in third-basic plumage, was found in Brownsville, Texas on 11 Feb 1999 - ironically by a group of birders visiting from New York!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Bruce MacTavish, Greg Lasley, Paul Lehman and Ned Brinkley for discussions or comments on the manuscript.

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[Editors Note: Pending acceptance by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), this sighting constitutes the first state record as noted in the title. This will bring the NYS checklist to 455 species.]

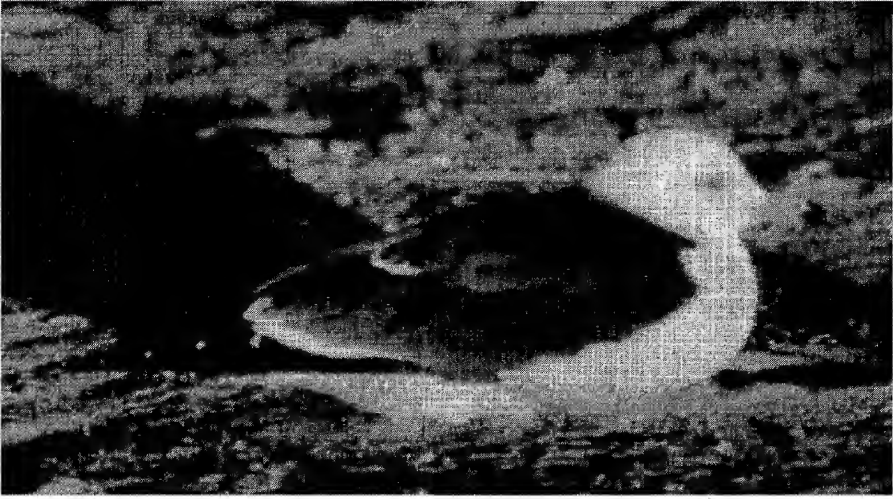


Figure 1. Adult Black-tailed Gull at Jones Beach, Nassau Co., New York, 28 Feb 1999. Showing the characteristic pale-yellow iris and striking bill pattern. The solid gray upperparts (lighter in life), immaculate white head, and noticeable white tips to the folded primaries, indicate an adult in alternate plumage. Photograph by Andrew Guthrie.

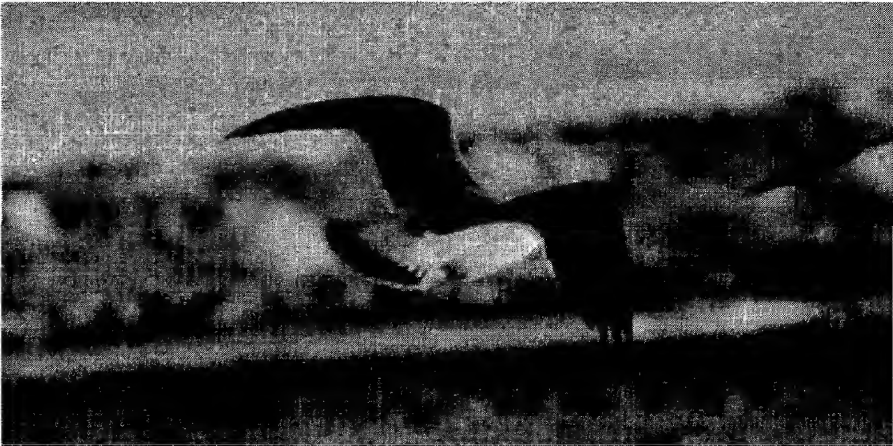


Figure 2. Black-tailed Gull at Jones Beach, Nassau Co., New York, 28 Feb 1999. In flight, showing the striking black tail band framed by white outer retrices, white tips to the tail feathers, and the clean white uppertail coverts. In life, the black outermost primaries contrasted with the gray wings and mantle. Photograph by Andrew Guthrie.

FALL WARBLER CENSUS BADGEROW PARK, GREECE, N.Y.

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ABSTRACT

Magnolia Warblers were the most commonly observed species during a four-year census of migrating fall warblers in Badgerow Park, Greece, N.Y. The counts were conducted from 10 Aug to 15 Oct, 1995-1998. Wilson's and Nashville warblers were found in greater numbers than expected, while Tennessee Warbler was found in fewer numbers. Overall patterns of migratory movement varied from year to year. However, each year featured a significant movement of at least three days duration during the first 10 days of September.

INTRODUCTION

Everyone loves warblers except, of course, in the fall, when dense foliage, lack of song and the duller plumage of some species conspire to make these small passerines difficult to observe and identify. However, Badgerow Park in the town of Greece, a suburb of Rochester, N.Y., is a good place to observe these birds. Located on the site of a former apple orchard, about a mile inland from the south shore of Lake Ontario, the park features a fragmented habitat of small, narrow woodlots, open weedy and grassy areas, presenting numerous sunlit edges and wood margins where migrating fall warblers often congregate. Black-capped Chickadees frequently form the nucleus of roving bands of migrating warblers, vireos, kinglets and other species (Smith, 1993). The ever vocal chickadees were one of the most reliable clues that fall warblers were also present. Even so, fall warbler watching in the park can require a great deal of patience and persistence. During lulls in migratory activity, it can take hard work to find even a half-dozen birds a day. However, this helped to draw an even sharper comparison when migratory movements did occur.

METHOD

The census was conducted on as many mornings as possible from 10 Aug to 15 Oct, 1995-1998. This range of dates no doubt meant that some species were not counted in full. Yellow-rumped Warbler, in particular, continues to be found in the park in at least modest numbers after 15 Oct.

However, the count period encompasses the bulk of the migration for the vast majority of warbler species passing through the Rochester area. The counts were conducted beginning at 8:30 a.m., and usually took from two to three hours to complete, averaging 2.5 hours, on 53 days in 1995, 62 days in 1996, 63 days in 1997 and 62 days in 1998. The same basic route was covered each day, encompassing about 27 acres, and was structured so that sunlit margins at the eastern edge of the park were visited first, where warblers often congregated for warmth and the first insect activity.

Besides listening for chickadees, the observer spished frequently to lure birds out from the dense foliage. Because of the lack of song, and the observers inability to separate some species by call notes, this was strictly a visual count.

There were inherent pitfalls in this approach. While it was fairly easy to locate warbler species that forage in the open, many of the "skulkers" were recorded in very small numbers, if at all, and were probably under-reported.

Bent (1963), for example, in his account of Mourning Warbler, notes that this species "seems rarer in the fall than it probably is, for it is very secretive, skulking through dense thickets and rank herbage; it is mainly silent also, which helps to make it seldom observed."

Kerlinger (1995) cites a study at Cape May, N.J., in which researchers walked more than 80 transects over two fall seasons, but saw fewer than 10 Connecticut Warblers, a particularly secretive species. And yet, banders in similar, adjacent habitat captured 55 in one season.

Even among more visible species, it is probable that some warblers were missed, and others counted twice in a given morning, because of the tendency of many of these birds to move about in roving flocks.

Nonetheless, a census of this kind can still produce a representative sampling of many of the warbler species using the park in fall. From this sampling, comparisons can be drawn as to the relative abundance of different species, and the peaks and valleys of migratory movements can be charted over the course of a season.

OBSERVATIONS

1) These species comprised the 2,704 nonresident warblers observed during the four seasons:

Magnolia, 692
Yellow-rumped, 307
Black-throated Green, 303
Wilson's, 237
Black-throated Blue, 183
Nashville, 180
Chestnut-sided, 142
Bay-breasted, 126
Blackburnian, 120
Blackpoll, 85
Black-and-white, 66
Canada, 34
Northern Parula, 32
Blue-winged, 20
Orange-crowned, 19
Ovenbird, 18
N. Waterthrush, 16
Cape May, 11
Mourning, 11
Tennessee, 8
Palm, 8
Cerulean, 4
Hooded, 3
Golden-winged, 1
Prairie, 1
Brewster's hybrid, 1

Three warbler species that routinely breed in the park. Yellow Warbler, American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat were not included in the count. Breeding adults and their offspring, particularly of the latter two species, linger in the park well after 10 Aug, and would skew the tally.

Seventy-six warblers were not identified as to species, including 22 "baypolls" that fall under the "Blackpoll Trio" complex as described by Kaufman (1990).

Magnolia was one of the most consistent in its numbers from year to year, representing 25 to 31 percent of all warblers seen each of the first three seasons. It also represented 30 percent of all warblers seen through the end of September of the last year, before an influx of Yellow-rumped in October. This should not be a surprise. Even in fall plumage, Magnolias are distinctive in appearance (note, for example, the undertail pattern in Dunn et al, 1997), and often forage at or near eye level. Eaton (1998) notes that at times this is the most numerous of our warblers on migration. If anything, the preferred habitat of this species is increasing as forests are removed from both its nesting and wintering grounds (Hall, 1994), so it is likely to remain an abundant migrant for the foreseeable future.

The volatility of most other species is perhaps best illustrated by Yellow-rumped Warblers. Two-thirds of all the birds counted from this species were seen during a single two-week period in October 1998. Many of the birds were counted as they frequented the same, poison-ivy draped trees to feed on the berries of that vine.

2) Though the movement of nonresident warblers through the park can begin in early August, and builds noticeably by month's end, the bulk of the migration occurs in September. Most species are no longer seen, or are reduced to isolated individuals by mid October. Within these broad parameters, however, the actual pattern of peak movements versus off days, varies from one season to the next.

There did seem to be one constant. In each of the four years, in early September, there was a significant movement of three or more days duration, during which daily counts averaged 30 or more birds. These movements occurred on 6-8 Sep, 1995 (95 birds); 8-10 Sep, 1996 (103 birds); 3-7 Sep, 1997 (171 birds) and 8-10 Sep, 1998 (154 birds). Two comparable movements occurred in the last part of September during two of the years, on 18-24 Sep, 1996 (255 birds) and 21-23 Sep, 1997 (101 birds). In terms of sheer numbers of birds and diversity of species, the average peak of migration occurred 8-10 Sep, when daily counts averaged 28 to 37 birds, of 8-10 species.

3) Beginning in 1996, temperature, wind speed/direction and air pressure

readings for the Rochester area were recorded from the Weather Channel each morning, noon and midnight during the count. Not surprisingly, many of the best counts occurred with the passage of cold fronts, when migrating warblers could take advantage of favorable tail winds.

Indeed, one of the best predictors of a good count was a purely north-west wind at midnight during September and the first week of October. This happened seven times, and each time 30 or more warblers were seen the next morning. However, not all movements fit easily into the cold front scenario. The 8-10 Sep, 1996 movement, for example, began as the remnants of Hurricane Fran moved directly over the Rochester area, bringing with it extremely low pressure and rains that apparently grounded many migrants.

COMMENTS

Birders are always comparing notes, and it was interesting from time to time to hear other birders mention that they had had a good count of warblers just a few miles from the park, on a day the park was quiet, or vice versa. This leads to the question, how representative are these numbers? One point of comparison is *The Birds of Monroe County, New York, Annotated List* (1985), which gives frequency, abundance and seasonal occurrence of the various bird species seen in the county, based on birders observations through 1984.

While numbers for most of the warbler species observed during this count fell well within the maxima set out in this publication, there were at least two significant departures.

Both Wilson's and Nashville warblers, for example, are described as regular, uncommon fall transients, meaning that a competent observer at the proper time and place might see one to five birds in a day, and no more than 25 in a season. Both species were seen in greater abundance in the park. Daily counts of Wilson's, for example, exceeded five birds on nine different days, with a maximum count of 13 on 10 Sep, 1998; seasonal totals ranged from 48 to 85. Sherony and Brooks (1998) also report Wilson's to be "annual but uncommon" in fall, 1-6 birds per day, with most records in September and early October.

Most sightings of Wilson's Warblers in Badgerow Park were in August and September, with only one bird counted in October.

Similarly, daily counts of Nashville exceeded five birds on seven different days, with maximum counts of 12 on three of those days. Seasonal counts in three of the years ranged from 36 to 81 birds.

On the other hand, Tennessee Warbler, described in the Annotated List as a regular, fairly common fall transient, was seen only eight times.

Do these departures represent widespread changes in occurrence for these species since 1984, or isolated blips peculiar to Badgerow Park? In the absence of similar counts, at a variety of locations in the Rochester area, this must remain a matter of conjecture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my wife Hedy for her endless patience and willingness to forego fall vacations during the course of this census. I would also like to thank the chickadees of Badgerow Park for making the task of finding fall warblers so much easier!

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**POST-BREEDING POPULATIONS OF PIED-BILLED GREBES
(*Podilymbus podiceps*) AT THE TONAWANDA WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA.**

David A. Seyler

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ABSTRACT— In January 1994 the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) was proposed for listing as a "Threatened" Species in New York State. Grebes were frequently seen at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area (TWMA), Genesee and Niagara counties, but no data existed on the size of the population or their habitat use. In mid-August I began to survey the area to collect baseline data on the Pied-billed Grebes using the area. Ten surveys were conducted between 18 August 1994 and 7 October 1994 resulting in counts ranging from 28 to 108 birds.

INTRODUCTION

Grebes are marsh birds of the family Podicipedidae. There are 22 species of grebes worldwide, five of which are on the official Checklist of the Birds of New York State (Levine 1998). The Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) is the most widespread, breeding from southern Alaska to South America and as far east as the West Indies (Gibbs and Melvin 1992). It is also the only grebe that nests in New York, occupying freshwater ponds, rivers and marshes. Occasionally they have been known to utilize saline or brackish habitats (Chabreck 1963).

Their presence as breeding birds in western New York has been noted by various authors (Bull 1974, Eaton 1910, Saunders 1926), but recently their range has been restricted mostly to state and federal management areas (Andrle and Carroll 1988). During surveys of 95 wetland sites in western and northern New York in 1989, Pied-billed Grebes were located at only 18 of the sites and all but one of the sites were either a state or a federal wildlife management area (Novak 1990).

Although federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the species presently has no listing in the state of New York. The Natural Heritage Program ranks the Pied-billed Grebe as S3 (rare or uncommon) in the state. The proposal in 1994 by New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to list the species as "Threatened" prompted my collection of data on the grebe population utilizing the TWMA.

The TWMA is located halfway between Buffalo and Rochester in Genesee and Niagara counties. Located in the Tonawanda Creek floodplain, 3,000 of the site's 5,600 acres is wetland. The TWMA is part of a larger wetland complex that includes the federal Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and the state operated Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area. The three properties abut each other creating a total wetland area of about 20,00 acres, known locally as the "Alabama Swamps" after the local township.

Although the TWMA is a natural wetland, today it is expertly managed by several miles of dikes and water control structures. Through active professional management, the property maximizes waterfowl production capabilities and increases the biodiversity creating habitat for non-game species, like the Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), as well as for waterfowl.

METHODS

The TWMA consists of nine separate marshes and six smaller paddies, all of which are bordered by man-made dikes or roads. Surveys were conducted from the dikes and roads by driving at five miles per hour and scanning the open water for grebes. All grebes were identified as juvenile or adults based on their plumage (Palmer 1962). Those grebes that were unable to be categorized because of the distance or other factors were listed as "age unknown".

Marshes selected for surveying were chosen based on past sightings of grebes. Most survey routes were established along large open water areas. Surveys had to be conducted only after regular duties were completed. Therefore, they were not conducted in a specific order or at a specific time of day. The number of marshes included per route varied also, but the four marshes of Ruddy, Hunt Club, Meadville and Wood were always included.

The duration of a survey depended upon the number of birds seen and the ease at which they could be identified as either a juvenile or an adult. Extreme care was taken to ensure that birds were not counted more than once in a survey.

RESULTS

Ten surveys were conducted starting 18 August 1994 and ending 7 October 1994. A total of 742 grebe sightings was recorded (Table 1). Most surveys lasted well over three hours and averaged 74 sightings. Remarkably in the third week of August, daily counts tallied as high as 100 birds including 69 juveniles. Counts as high as 89 were recorded as late as 23 September.

DISCUSSION

I became aware of the proposed "Threatened" listing too late in the season to allow for proper planning of a scientific study. Surveys based on visual observation were the only avenue for the immediate collection of data. The goal of the surveys was to salvage what I could of the 1994 season and gather as much information as possible on the size of the grebe population. Time constraints and responsibilities of other duties resulted in an inconsistent scheduling of surveys. Despite the fact that the plan was hastily conceived, it did meet its goal by providing baseline data on the number of Pied-billed Grebes using the area.

The daily totals of birds observed were surprising. Counts as high as 108 birds were far beyond expectations. It is possible that birds could already have migrated in from other breeding sites. Fall migration starts as early as August.

In every survey the observed number of juveniles exceeded the observed number of adults. That could be indicative of a successful breeding season. Those observations of birds that could not be identified to an age group, were not included in that analysis. The complex appears to be prime habitat for Pied-billed Grebes. Emergent marshes with varying degrees of open water are the areas most often used (Chabreck 1963, Faaborg 1976, Glover 1953, Kirby 1975). The TWMA consists of 1,315 acres of emergent vegetation and 333 acres of open water. Additionally, Oak Orchard WMA provides another 375 acres of emergents and 320 acres of open water. The federal refuge contains about 5,300 acres of habitat in a combination of emergent vegetation and open water (A. Nice pers. comm.). Reportedly, intermediate size marshes between 0.74 acres and 17.3 acres are preferred (Faaborg 1976, Kirby 1975, Nudds 1982, Yocum et al 1958). Brown and Dinsmore (1986) suggested that marsh size was an important factor and that grebes were consistently found only at wetlands greater than 12 acres. Gibbs and Melvin (1990) concurred that marshes >12 acres were necessary.

The grebes are known nesters in the complex. Plant species associated with Pied-billed Grebe nesting areas generally are emergent vegetation such as cattail (*Typha* sp.), bur reed (*Sparganium* sp.), wire grass (*Spartina* sp.), arrowhead (*Sagittaria* sp.), rushes (*Scirpus* sp.) (Deusing 1939, Abbott 1907, Faaborg 1976, Chabreck 1963, Sealy 1978) and submerged aquatics. Large expanses of open water exist in Ruddy and Wood marshes providing more than adequate feeding grounds for Pied-billed Grebes.

Controversy exists however; as to whether the birds prefer to nest in the vegetation or in the open water. Faaborg (1976) noted that 13 of 24 nests were built in heavily vegetated ponds containing only 20-40% open water. He summarized that, of the three species of grebes studied, the Pied-billed Grebe used the more heavily vegetated and generally larger ponds, completely avoiding ponds that were 100% open water. Several authors have recorded nests directly located within the vegetation (Abbott 1907, Deusing 1939, Glover 1953, Forbes and Ankey 1988). Chabreck (1963) on the other hand, observed 52% of his nests were in open water, free of any emergent vegetation. Grebes were observed nesting in both instances at the complex. Most often nests that were established in what was open water at the time, ended up surrounded by either bur reed or rushes before the clutch hatched.

Shallower marshes appear to be most favorable to the species (Nudds 1982). Glover (1953) recorded water depths at his study site to range between 15 and 25 inches, but stated that the most successful nests were found in water averaging 24.2 inches. Chabreck (1963) documented the water depths at the open water nests to average 18 inches as opposed to the nests in the emergent areas of wire grass (*Spartina patens*) with water depths of between 8 and 12 inches.

Water levels at TWMA can be controlled within the impounded areas. Water depth generally ranges from 0 to about 4ft, excluding the borrow ditches which can be almost 6.5 ft. Black Tern colonies occupy the same type of habitat as Pied-billed Grebes. Over the years, water depth measurements taken at Black Tern nest sites throughout the complex recorded depths of 8 to 31 inches with averages of 17.5 in. (Seyler 1991), 19 in. (Adams 1990) and 21 in. (Hickey 1994).

The size of the population during the breeding season at the TWMA or the wetland complex as a whole is unknown. The numbers of birds seen during the surveys seemed high, but at no time did the birds appear to be crowded. The grebes were well spaced and in fact gave the impression that there was room for many more. Unlike Eared Grebes, which tend to be colonial in nature, Pied-billed Grebes are solitary nesters (Faaborg 1977). They maintain a nesting territory of about 150 ft. around

their nest (Glover 1953), which is aggressively defended from other grebes (Palmer 1962, Wetmore 1920). Pied-billed Grebes have also been recorded to be aggressive toward other species within their nesting territory, such as coots and ducks (Kilham 1954, Wetmore 1924). Chabreck (1963) recorded the average distance between active nests to be 180 ft.. The home range has been approximated to be twice the size of the defended nesting territory (Glover 1953). Although grebes are highly aggressive within their nesting territory, they peacefully coexist in other areas of the marsh, such as large expanses of open water, without incident (Glover 1953).

The results of the surveys indicate that the TWMA supports a successful breeding population of Pied-billed Grebes. Consequently, the adjoining wetland properties of Iroquois and Oak Orchard likely support similar sized populations. More research should be done to ascertain the size of the population for the complex, its nesting success and habitat use. That information could be used to better manage other portions of the state where the birds are in low numbers as well as to ensure that the habitat needs of the species are maintained at the *Alabama Swamps*.

TABLE 1.

1994 Pied-billed Grebe Surveys
Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area,
Genesee and Niagara counties, New York

Date Time	#Juveniles	#Adult	Age		#Marshes
			#Unknown	Total	
8/18/94 1345-1510	35	15	11	61	5
8/19/94 0800-1040	69	11	20	100	8
8/25/94 0915-1103	17	4	7	28	5
8/26/94 0750-1124	40	8	23	71	9
9/09/94 0915-1215	24	11	30	65	8
9/13/94 0935-1313	23	6	33	62	10
9/16/94 0935-1315	32	8	39	79	7
9/20/94 0842-1317	19	7	53	79	7
9/23/94 0825-1256	26	10	53	89	7
10/7/94 0823-1210	24	3	81	108	7

Marshes visited in all surveys: Ruddy, Meadville, Hunt Club, Wood
marshes included in most surveys: Cinnamon, Paddies II, Klossen
marshes occasionally surveyed: Paddy I, Paddy III, Sprout

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**NESTING OF OSPREY AT WEBB ROYCE SWAMP,
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK**

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and

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ABSTRACT—Description of nesting chronology and behavior of Ospreys at Webb Royce Swamp, an Important Bird Area (IBA) in New York State.

WEBB ROYCE SWAMP

The Webb Royce Swamp is a premier birding site in Essex County. It was created in 1978 when beavers dammed a small feeder stream of the Boquet River. This rather dramatic ecologic change has precipitated many other equally dramatic wildlife changes in the intervening years, including the establishment of a breeding colony of Great Blue Herons and the establishment in the Champlain Valley of the first reported Osprey nesting in recent times on other than an artificial (man-made) platform. In 1998 the National Audubon Society recognized the Webb Royce Swamp as one of 127 sites in New York State that met the state level Important Bird Area (IBA) criteria (Wells 1998).

The Webb Royce Swamp lies in a broad depression with Split Rock Mountain to the east and the Boquet River and the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains to the west. Recently the area was purchased from private owners and turned over to the state of New York (Wells 1998). The swamp is surrounded by private land devoted mostly to hay production. It is about one mile long and about a third of a mile wide. The swamp straddles two towns, Westport and Essex. Lake Champlain is about two (2) miles to the east of the swamp as the Osprey flies.

CHRONOLOGY OF NESTING

Osprey have nested at this site since 1995 when a pair built their nest in a tree at the northern fringe of the swamp. Early in 1996 the nest tree was blown down in a windstorm. Poole (1989) reports "that in New York State 30% to 40% of nests were lost yearly due mainly to windstorms". In that same year (1996), a pair returned and usurped the largest nest in the middle of the Great Blue Heron colony. This evidently caused the herons to move en masse some twelve (12) miles to the north to nest on the 4-Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain. Things changed again in 1997. This time a Great Horned Owl took over the nest site from the Osprey. By April 7 a Great Horned Owl was sitting on the nest, and it wasn't until April 15 that the Ospreys returned to the Webb Royce Swamp. On May 2, Mark Gretch discovered a completed Osprey nest within four tenths of a mile of the Great Horned Owl nest. This nest site was surrounded by a sea of cattails and was safe from ground predators like raccoon because it was over water. Poole(1989) says "that over water sites have almost magical attraction for this species". He also says that "Osprey nest nearly always near food (near water)". He reports that "three (3) to five (5) kilometers from water is often near enough". The Ospreys at Webb Royce had the shallow waters of the swamp to fish over or they could fly to the shores of Lake Champlain, a distance of about three (3) kilometers (about 2 miles).

Most of the dead snags in the swamp are solitary trunks with few branches that could support an osprey nest. The tree they chose to build in was a mammoth red maple about three and one-half feet in diameter at breast height. The nest rests securely on the blunt end of the trunk 22 feet above the ground. The birds made a good choice when they selected this tree. It is sturdy enough to last many years. In 1998 they again returned to this site and nested successfully.

OSPREY NESTING BEHAVIOR

As the 1997 breeding season progressed it became quite obvious to us that there was a chance to eclipse the late date (July 25) for unfledged juveniles listed in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State* (Andrle and Carroll 1988), so we monitored the nest closely. Bill Kozel (1995) in fact describes nesting Ospreys at Polliwog Pond in the Adirondacks with one of the young not fledging until August 8. There were a number of other reasons to suspect that the Ospreys we were observing might have a late

start to nesting. First the Great Horned Owl displaced the pair at the old heron colony forcing them to search for another suitable site in the swamp. That took some time. The second factor was the weather. It was a cool, wet spring (Peterson 1997). It wasn't until after Memorial Day that the weather became seasonable. That year even the Mayflies did not hatch until early June.

Watching the nesting site almost daily from mid-July we noted many fascinating items of behavior. Poole (1989) says that males are the "main providers" of food at the nest. Our observation indicated that both adults were bringing back food to the nest at about the same rate. Perhaps the near presence of the Great Horned Owls had something to do with this. Great Horned Owls are a real threat to nesting birds, so they had to be more vigilant. Could it be the male spent more time than usual standing guard, and less time fishing?

Poole (1989) says that "Osprey chicks that are persistently hungry often fight with siblings for access to their mother distributing food. Well-fed young almost never fight". We didn't observe any fighting among the siblings, so we assume that food was relatively abundant.

We observed only one close encounter with another species of bird. A Great Blue Heron landed in the vegetated branches near and over the nest. Both young immediately detected the perched heron. The heron had come too close to the nest and had to nosedive out of the tree toward the cattails as the male Osprey swooped down to knock it out of the tree.

Ospreys are sexually dimorphic, differing in both plumage, size and weight. The two young we observed (with a 40 power scope) were easily told from each other even at a considerable distance (over one-third mile). Adult females weigh more than males. Poole (1989) also says that "females usually have fuller, darker breast bands than males do". Using these two characteristics (plumage pattern on the breast and size) we believe we were observing a male and a female young. Poole (1989) reports that "male Ospreys having less weight to gain, may actually mature faster than females". This is consistent with what we observed at the nest. The young male fledged 5 days earlier than its female sibling. The male fledged on August 6 and the female fledged on August 11.

Poole (1989) says that "during the last 10-15 days before fledging, young Ospreys regularly exercise their wings developing the muscles that will power their first tentative flights". At first, wing-lift practice included flapping their wings rapidly while raising one foot then the other off the nest. At this early stage of testing they never developed sufficient lift for flight. At the next stage they frantically flapped their wings and jumped up and down on the rim of the nest. Again not enough lift. We witnessed one of the young flap its wings and leap over its sibling. The final stage before lift off was hovering momentarily over the nest. Once they reached that stage it was usually only another day before their maiden flight.

It appeared that the second bird to fledge needed more encouragement from its parents to fly. From a perch some distance from the nest the adult birds repeatedly called to it. The adult female even modeled flight for its last unfledged young. She stood on the rim of the nest, looked back at her young, communicated with body language and then jumped into the air and flew to a nearby perch. Many times this young appeared as if it was ready to fly but hesitated at the last minute. The bird appeared restless, maybe even nervous. It frantically flapped its wings, jumped up and down, walked around the edge of the nest and nearly tripped and fell out of the nest a number of times. It even developed what appeared to be a nervous pick-up stick routine. It pulled sticks out of the nest and quickly placed them back into the nest. Reading nervousness into this behavior is anthropomorphic of course. The real meaning of this behavior is known only to the Osprey. Through all these pre-flight maneuvers the adults remained patient.

NESTING STATISTICS

Loucks (1998) reports incubation for the Adirondacks population from 34 to 39 days with a nestling period of 61 days, or a range of 95 to 100 days. This coincides almost exactly with the 101 days we recorded at Webb Royce Swamp for the same activities. Other comparisons between our nesting data and those reported by Loucks (1998) are in close agreement such as birds arriving on breeding ground 13-17 April, ours on 15 April; egg laying beginning 28 April to 6 May whereas the Webb Royce female was incubating on 2 May. Further, our young fledged 6 August to 11 August, again consistent with the Loucks data of 28 July to 21 August.

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NOTES AND OBSERVERSATIONS

Readers are invited to submit short pieces of interesting sightings, observations or incidents, etc., that do not require full-blown article treatment. No bibliography is necessary unless the author wishes to submit one. If a photograph is included, we require either a black-and-white glossy print or a color negative which we will convert to a b&w print. If the editor believes the note should be expanded to a full article, you will be invited to do so.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A SUFFOLK NESTING RECORD OF AMERICAN COOT.

by Eric Salzman
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Five American Coot (*Fulica americana*), in juvenal plumage, with two adults were seen on a half-dozen visits to a restored marsh in Aquebogue, Suffolk, during the first two weeks of July 1998. Historically, there are few breeding records for this species on Long Island east of Jamaica Bay and it has generally been declining in the northeast as a nester.

This is only the second published record for Suffolk. The first was discovered by Christopher McKeever on Mecox Bay, Water Mill, in 1954 (Bull, 1964). McKeever also found a second nest on Water Mill Pond in the 1970s (fide Jim Ash) but this has remained unpublished until now.

The Aquebogue location is of interest as it is part of a functioning duck farm which has operated for many years on extensive fresh wetlands adjacent to Peconic Bay. With the assistance of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the property owner has recently restored some of the wetlands to a relatively natural state as a cattail marsh. As such, it forms part of the duck farm's pollution control system but it also provides good habitat for wetland species including, notably, Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), which successfully reproduces on the farm in considerable numbers.

Coot, like several other essentially western water birds ("The breeding of the coot anywhere in the eastern United States is of rare or accidental occurrence...", Bent 1926), began nesting at certain favored eastern locations in the 1930s and, in numbers, in the 1950s. These included Jamaica Bay (up to 50 pairs; Bull 1964, 1974), the Hackensack Meadows (up to 300 pairs; Bull 1964), Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (up to 200 nesting pairs; Bull 1974; Andrle and Carroll 1988), the Oak Orchard/ Iroquois/Tonawanda refuge complex ("in the hundreds", Eaton, S.W. in Andrle and Carroll 1988), and scattered other locations in western Long Island and western New York (Bull 1974). However it no longer nests at Jamaica Bay and no locations east of the Mississippi and north of Florida are mapped in *The Summer Atlas of North American Birds* (Price et al. 1995). According to *Bull's Birds of New York State* (DiCostanzo in Levine 1998), it is now a "rare to common, but local, breeder in the central and western portions (of the state)" and a rare breeder anywhere on the coast, having also declined or disappeared in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut (Leck 1984; Veit and Petersen 1993; Zeranski and Baptist 1990).

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WINTERING PINE WARBLER TAKES NIGER SEED

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On 9 Dec 1998, I saw a small nondescript bird perched on a hanging sunflower feeder, picking among the seeds and hulls in the feeder trough. Closer examination through a pair of 7 x 50 Bausch & Lomb binoculars at 50 feet, revealed a Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). It had a medium yellow breast and throat, unstreaked back, two wing bars, white undertail coverts and a small eyering.

Snow was falling and the thermometer stood at 25 degrees F. The bird was very active and also fed on the suet which hung above the feeder. I supplemented the suet with peanut butter mixed with with cornmeal and cracked sunflower seed.

On 5 Jan 1999, I observed the bird taking niger seed from the porthole of the niger seed feeder. Thereafter, it visited the niger seed feeder regu-

larly, taking three to five seeds each time. It also visited the other seed feeders in the yard.

Earlier that week, Robert Hagar and Sean O'Brien of Saranac Lake, confirmed the identity of the warbler.

On 14 Jan, the thermometer dropped to 25 degrees F, several inches of snow fell, and a winter stormwatch was in effect. I did not see the warbler that day, or any day after that.

I had recorded the bird on 22 separate days between 9 Dec 1998 and 13 Jan 1999.

ADDENDUM BY REGION 7 REGIONAL EDITOR J.M. C. PETERSON

Salzman (1998) writing about the Pine Warbler states, "most upstate birds leave between late Sep and early Oct, but are now occasionally noted in Nov (e.g. Saranac Lake, Franklin Co., 23 Nov 1994), and it is rare but increasing in winter". The Tupper Lake warbler noted above is the first Winter Season (Dec-Feb) record for Franklin County and only the second for the Adirondack-Champlain Region 7. Carleton (1976, 1980) reported, one winter record at a TI feeder (Antoinette O'Brien) in the Champlain Valley of Essex County.

LITERATURE CITED

Carleton, G. 1976, 1980. Pine Warbler in birds of Essex County, NY, Elizabethtown, NY: *High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc.* p.21 (and 2nd ed.) p.23.

Salzman, E. 1998. Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) in Levine, E., Ed. *Bull's birds of New York State*, Cornell University Press, pgs. 471-473

A LATE NESTING VEERY FOUND IN ALLEGANY STATE PARK, NY

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On the 27th of June 1998 an adult Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) was flushed from a nest on Mt. Onondaga tornado blowdown site in Allegany State Park. This nest was in the fork of a black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) sapling, 1.09 meters from the ground. The nest had dead leaves for a base with the rest of the bowl of sticks, twigs, and rootlets with finer material lined the inside of the cup.

There were three bluish green glossy eggs in the nest between the 27th of June and the 6th July, 11 days later than dates listed in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Andrle and Carroll, 1988). Three nestlings were observed in the nest between the 9th of July and the 17th of July. They were banded on the 14th of July and then returned to the nest. On the 19th of July, no chicks were found in the nest.

Another nest was found on the 18th of June 1998 only 9 days before the nest on the 27th of June was found. This nest was found deserted with no young, eggs, or adults seen around the nest site. It was built like the nest found on the 27th of June, except that the nest was 18 centimeters from the ground and built on some dead *Rubus sp.* twigs. This nest was found about 100 meters from the nest found on the 27th of June and may have been an earlier attempt by the same Veery.

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UPDATES TO BULL'S BIRDS OF NEW YORK STATE

Since bird life anywhere is not static, Bull's Birds of New York State is already dated. The effective cutoff date for most of the species accounts was late 1996, so we already have a two year gap that needs to be addressed.

In addition to the need to update species accounts, there are sure to be a certain amount of errors of omission and commission that have crept into the work, careful as your editors have tried to be. Some have already come to light, and I am sure there will be more.

I therefore invite all readers, to write to me on whatever they believe needs a correction or an update. Please accompany such a note with doc-

umentary material, such as *Kingbird* or other accredited publication material.

The data thus accumulated will appear periodically in *The Kingbird, New York Birders*, as well as on the website, and eventually be presented as a Supplement to the current volume.

Please send all material directly to:

Emanuel Levine
Chairman of Publications
585 Mead Terrace
South Hempstead, NY 11550

CORRECTION

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) Pgs. 360-361.

The Nonbreeding section mistakenly contains information that properly belongs in the Eastern Phoebe account. Therefore this section should be rewritten as follows:

"It generally arrives in early to mid May, occasionally in late Apr, and normally departs late Sep or early Oct. A bird near Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 13 Apr 1985, was extremely early (KB 35:189). In 1969, a specimen (AMNH 793548) was collected at Fire I. Lighthouse on 15 Nov."

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) Pgs. 368-369.

The removed text from the pewee account actually belongs in the last paragraph of the Eastern Phoebe account which will now read as follows:

"Virtually every Region has Dec, Jan, and Feb records in mild winters; These birds switch to berry and backyard feeder diets in the insect-free months, but they most probably become victims of late winter storms. Unusual numbers of phoebes were noted on coastal CBC's in 1981 and 1984. On 1993, they were reported on seven different counts on SI and LI. A record of particular note took place on LI, with a total of five birds recorded on three CBCs 16-29 Dec 1980."

DELETIONS

The records listed below are to be deleted from the text as they were not accepted by NYSARC (KB 48:301-307).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) Pg. 163

"A Region 6 first, a male, was recorded at Long Point SP, Jefferson Co. 1 Apr 1995..."

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) Pg. 246

".. Gilgo Beach, Suffolk Co. 18 Sep 1994..."

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) Pg. 254

".. one in fading alternate plumage, briefly at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Westchester Co. 18 Aug 1995..."

Ross's Gull (*Rhodestethia rosea*) Pg. 292

".. Point Peninsula, Jefferson Co. 4 Jan 1995..."

ADDITIONS

ADDITIONS to the New York State Checklist

The following three species have been added to the official NYS checklist by the approval of NYSARC:

- Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)
- Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)
- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

This brings the total list to 454 species.

An excellent account on the sandpiper appears in *The Kingbird* Vol. 48 No. 3 and on the hummer in *The Kingbird* Vol. 48 No. 4.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON 1998

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Niagara Falls, NY 14304

WEATHER EFFECTS

Fall 1998 was warm and dry fairly consistently throughout the state, though Regions 6 & 7 had several bouts of highly changeable weather. Unlike some autumns there was very little snow during the season and what did fall melted quickly. Labor Day and Veteran's Day brought the fiercest weather of the period. The Labor Day storm is described in Region 5, but it also hit parts of Regions 1 & 2 near Lake Ontario causing comparable damage. Though a few dead American Robins, Blue Jays, and Mourning Doves were found in Region 5 from this event, it was the Veteran's Day storm that had the most noticeable effect upon the birds. This event could also be called the Franklin's Gull storm, for following its passage these birds rained down throughout the midwest and northeast. This gull is regular only on the Niagara River in Region 1, but the storm blew them into Regions 2, 5, & 10 as well. Still, the numbers found in New York paled in comparison to the totals found on Lakes Michigan, Erie, and Ontario and even in New Jersey (Lehman 1998).

DATE TABLES

A couple of Regional Editors felt that birds generally departed earlier than usual, despite the mild season. As a group the warblers conformed to this impression, with nearly all species leaving early and four significantly so (greater than two standard deviations). On the other hand six of eight shorebirds stayed significantly late. This can probably be explained by the greater amount of available habitat (i.e. mud flats and muddy margins) this season, caused by the dry weather after July in many Regions. Some years in parts of the state, there simply is not enough habitat to lure these birds to drop in, much less to stay late.

As the data set gets larger, we will see fewer Regional record dates. This season there were only four species that were record late in two or more Regions - Pectoral Sandpiper, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tree Swallow, and Nashville Warbler.

TRENDS

Expanding numbers of Snow Geese continue to elicit comment, especially in the more easterly Regions, though even Region 1 weighed in with a record-early arrival. Of the Regions sending in reports, all but Region 6 reported both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, most with multiple sightings. A decade ago this would have been unheard of, but now it is hardly surprising. Merlins almost equaled American Kestrels at the Fire Island Hawkwatch in Region 10, a reflection of the former's health in the east as well as the latter's problems. As the forest cover has increased this century, so have the fortunes of the Ruffed Grouse. To this writer, who has only ever recorded one in his home county and who sees them only occasionally where they are common, reports of 50+ individuals in Region 5 seem incredible. Along with high numbers found in Region 6, this would seem to indicate that Ruffed Grouse has reached a peak in its population cycle in these Regions. It really was not that long ago that Lesser Black-backed Gull was a great rarity. This season it showed up in every Region that reported except the two northernmost. In some of those Regions it is no longer considered rare. There has been serious concern over the downward trend shown by Black Terns in recent years. That makes the count of 340 in Region 10 a big surprise, as this is the largest coastal count since the early 70's. Odds are that this count was an anomaly, but at least it gives us some hope.

HIGH COUNTS

1908 Red-throated Loons at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch is another outstanding one-day count from that site. And how does one find 16 American Bitterns in the fall in Region 2? It is not like when they are calling in the spring! Multi-thousand counts of Snow Geese are becoming a regular occurrence. This season, Regions 7, 8, & 10 were in that category. Ruddy Duck numbers surged to an impressive 1400 in Region 1 and 500 in Region 9. 68 Black Vultures at the Mount Peter Hawkwatch in Region 9 is a remarkable seasonal total. Oddly, despite its increased status in Region 9, it remains a fine rarity in the rest of the state, as evidenced by a boldfaced report of one in Region 10. 150 Common Snipe in Region 3 matches the fall maximum listed in *Bulls Birds of New York State* (Marcotte 1998). Though inland birders may not be impressed, a count of 25 Caspian Terns in Region 10 is a coastal record. 20,000 Tree Swallows at the Montezuma NWR in Region 3, while not a record, is an impressive sight nonetheless.

FURTHER READING

As always, some special projects are found in the reports, which add their particular piece of important data to the birding puzzle. Look for results of the October Count in Region 1, a warbler study and the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch in Region 2, and banding data from Region 3. Hawkwatch results are given in the reports from Regions 8, 9, & 10.

RARITIES

Fall is the time when young birds, unsure of their migration route, stray from the time honored pathways to surprise and gratify some lucky and/or skilled birder. This season exemplified that axiom with the discovery of many exceptional rarities. In the discussion that follows, citations are from *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Though it is sad that Loggerhead Shrikes are now very rare, it is that same status that makes them such a pleasant surprise when they do appear. This season Regions 1 & 9 hosted the species. A young Purple Gallinule in Region 2 provided the sixth inland record and only the fourth immature (DiCostanzo 1998). Best of all, it was photographed at close range. Three American White Pelicans in Region 3 arrived in time for many of the Federation members at the Annual Meeting in Rochester to make a relatively short foray to see them. Although no Regional report was received from Region 4, there is an account of the Anna's Hummingbird there, a first state record which already appeared in *The Kingbird* (Grosek 1998). In Region 5 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was an excellent autumn find while a Townsend's Solitaire in Region 6 would be only the seventh state record (Brock 1998). With no ocean and no Great Lake, Region 7 still managed a Northern Gannet, a first Regional record. In addition Region 7 added a Ross's Goose and a Cinnamon Teal. There have been only five to seven records of birds believed to be wild of the latter species (Sherony 1998). A Pacific Loon in Region 8 was carefully studied and, if accepted by NYSARC, will provide one of very few autumn records. As usual Region 10 weighed in with more than their share of remarkable sightings including a Swainson's Hawk (photographed), the Broad-billed Sandpiper staying over from the summer season, a Long-billed Curlew (only two records since 1938(Feustel 1998)), and two Cave Swallows which were photographed, providing only the second record for the state. All of these sightings are subject to review by NYSARC and it is encouraging to note

that verification reports and/or photographs were submitted for most of them. Many other great rarities not mentioned here are laced through the Regional reports.

Every Region has their favorite birding locations or hotspots that always seem to draw in a rarity or two. This season the Chezy Riverlands in Clinton County in Region 7 was fantastically productive. Among the great finds there were Northern Gannet, Greater White-fronted Goose, Cinnamon Teal, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, and lesser lights Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Western, White-rumped, and Stilt sandpipers! Perhaps we need a new award - Hotspot of the Season. Clearly, the Chezy Riverlands would get my vote.

LITERATURE CITED

Grosek, R. J. 1998 Dec. Anna's Hummingbird in Binghamton, New York. *The Kingbird* 48(4):280.

Lehman P. 1998 Dec. South of the Border. *Birder's Journal* 7(6):292.

Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in ***bold italics***; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In **species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. — American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS — bird of the season; CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. — Northern; NYSDEC — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; W. — Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

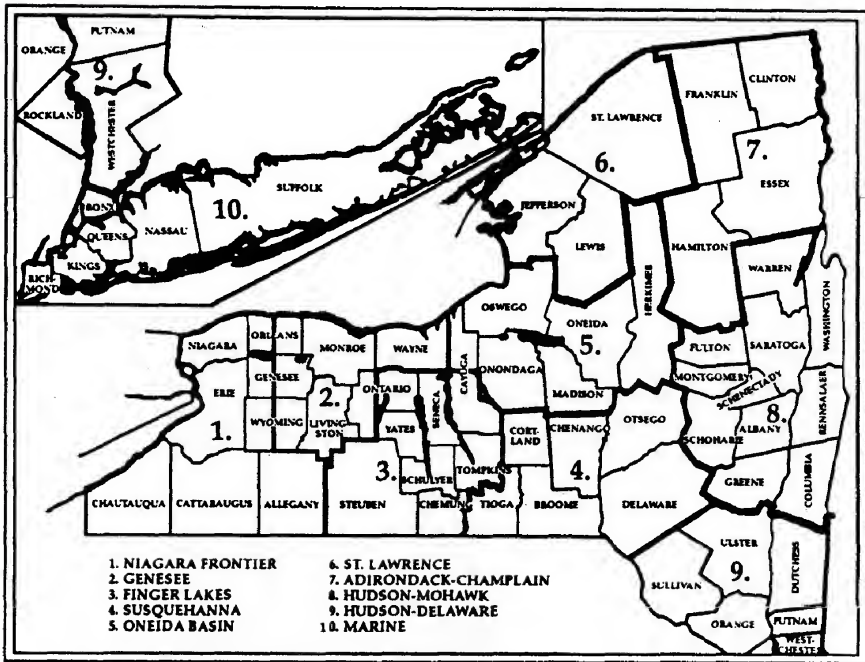
Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at:*

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

REGION 1- NIAGARA FRONTIER

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As I write this report to complete my first year as Region 1 compiler, I realize that this section on weather has become one of superlatives regarding positive record breaking conditions for over a year now. This report will once again indicate a continuation of those conditions, and the consequent interesting impact on local avian records. Fall 1998 meteorological conditions provided yet another record breaking set of data.

According to weather statistics compiled by Stephen McLaughlin (Chief Meteorologist - National Weather Bureau, Buffalo), September weather averaged out warm and dry with near normal sunshine. With an average temperature of 63.7 degrees, two degrees above the normal, it was the warmest September in 13 years. Two significant weather events occurred during the month. On September 6th a line of severe thunderstorms swept across Niagara and Orleans counties, and on September 27th an isolated storm with baseball size hail hit Niagara Falls. Both storms caused severe damage and were a major setback to the Region's orchards.

Autumn made a timely appearance on September 22 - 24 with a cool spell that produced some frost through the Southern Tier portion of the Region. Rainfall was mostly absent during the period, about an inch below normal, and sunshine was recorded for 55% of the daylight hours. Finally, the Lake Erie water temperature dropped to 67 degrees, still three degrees above normal, at the month's end.

October continued the weather trend, with local meteorologists claiming it as "a near-perfect month". It was a dry and sunny month, with no extremes and no records set. The average temperature was 52.6 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal. The monthly temperature range was 29 (on the 31st) to 77 (on the 18th). With the cool weather holding off till the second half of the period, the growing season was extended by about two weeks. Rainfall was light, with a monthly total of 2.1 inches, an inch less than normal. One half of the rain fell on the 6th and 7th making it the heaviest rain in three months. Daylight hours were sunny 53 percent of the time. The extended warm period caused fall foliage to peak a week later than usual. Light winds prevailed throughout. The Lake Erie temperature closed at 57 degrees, again, three degrees above normal.

November continued the weather trend, with above normal temperature and below normal precipitation. The average monthly temperature was 42 degrees, almost two degrees above normal. Over half of the month's precipitation fell during a storm on the 10th and 11th. The only measurable frozen precipitation varied throughout the Region with only a few inches in the higher elevations to less than a half inch. To conclude this weather section, the Weather Bureau reported that November's snowfall total was the 4th lowest in 114 years of record keeping.

Weather played an interesting role in avian prescence or lack thereof. Normal migratory movements occurred early in the period, with record, earlier-than-normal movements of Snow Goose on **27 September**, a probable result of increased above normal population numbers on their breeding grounds. Other very early arrivals included: Ruby-crowned Kinglets on 7 September, White-crowned Sparrows 19 September, and Rusty Blackbirds 9 September. A report of **1158** Double-crested Cormorants from Buckhorn Island State Park on the 18th of September was a record high count for the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) study area. Another noteworthy record for the month of September was earlier than normal movements of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Goat Island in The Niagara River on the 29th, with 6 adults observed. RBA reports indicated the appearance of 2 White-winged Crossbills in the Town of Charlotte in Chautauqua County on 13 September. Also of interest were 3 (2 adults and 1 juvenile) Buff-breasted Sandpipers by Bob Sundell in the Allegany Reservoir in Cattaraugus County on 7 September.

Migratory movements mirrored the weather during the month of October, with the 3rd providing an outstanding passerine and waterfowl flight. Unfortunately, such was not the case on the 11th of October when 247 observers took part in the BOS October Bird Count day. While weather conditions (warm and pleasant with light northwesterly winds) were great for the birders, it was one of the worst migration days of the month. The compilers, Mike Hamilton and Terry Yonkers, reported 147 species, with Lesser Black-backed Gull being recorded for the first time on the count and a Long-billed Dowitcher being reported for only the fifth time. Eighteen species were recorded at new high count totals and six at new lows. A noticeable absence of Great Egrets was reported for the first time in the last ten years of the count.

The Region's first autumn record of a **Greater White-fronted Goose** and the first **Eurasian Wigeon** in the fall since 1994 were reported. On 18 October the goose was found on the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge near Batavia, NY. The wigeon was located on the same date at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area near the Iroquois NWR.

Veterans Day, November 11th , brought several interesting sightings to the Region. Gale storm winds brought in a scattered number of Franklin's Gulls (mostly adult birds) along the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shores. These birds were reported throughout the area most of the month. Also on that date, the first **Black-legged Kittiwake** and Sabine's Gull of the season were reported. Other notable Larid reports during the month included Little Gull, **California Gull**, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and, Glaucous Gull. Most of these birds were observed in the noted Niagara River area, while other local waterfowl areas continued to produce good numbers of migrating birds, such as: 1400 Ruddy Ducks on Chautauqua Lake in Chautauqua County on 20 November, 909 Ring-necked Ducks at the Batavia waste water treatment plant in Batavia, NY on 1 November, and 90 Hooded Mergansers at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Genessee/Orleans counties on 27 November.

Other notable sightings for the month included a **Sandhill Crane** (RBA report) that flew over the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY on 9 November , and a well documented **Loggerhead Shrike** on 1 November by Susan and Tom O'Donnell at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. This latter report is the first documented report for this species in the BOS territory since 1991. Also on 1 November, an unusual sighting for this time of the year was a White-eyed Vireo observed by Tim Baird in the city of Salamanca in Cattaraugus County. Concluding this report will be two more fine sightings for this Region. First, a **Bohemian Waxwing** on 6 November by Mike Morgante at the Golden Hills State Park in Niagara County. This represents the 48th sighting since 1961 of which 23 are from the month of November. Next, the month of November finished with a nice look at an adult light morph **Parasitic Jaeger** in the Dunkirk Harbor in Chautauqua County from 25 - 30 November. This bird was observed by many and photographed by Allen Benton. In addition, I managed to produce some very excellent video footage of this bird.

In closing this report I would like to offer special recognition to Dick Rosche (BOS reporter), Mike Morgante (BOS compiler), Joe Thill (weather data), Vivian Pitzrick, and Willie D'Anna for their continued data input and support.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Allen Benton, Jim Berry, Ray Budniewski, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Kurt Fox, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Dave Junkin, Aaron Kehlenback, Brenda Klick, Marie Maustellar, Alice McKale, Dick Miga, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Richard Rosche, Dorothy Rosche, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Debra Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill (plus weather data), John Thill, Mike Turisk, Kirk Vanstrom, Anne Vogt, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AL - Amity Lake, ALLE; ASP - Allegany State Park, CATT; BWWTP - Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; BeSP - Beaver Island State Park - Grand Island, ERIE; BuSP - Buckhorn Island State Park, Grand Island; BRBA - Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; CSG - Countryside Gravel Pits, Town of Dayton, CATT; DH - Dunkirk Harbor, City of Dunkirk; FMSCP - Four Mile Creek State Park, NIAG; FNSP - Fort Niagara State Park, NIAG; GHSP - Golden Hill State Park, NIAG; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, GENE/ORLE; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, GENE; Tift NP - Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo; WB - Woodlawn Beach, ERIE.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 4 T Wilson 25 Oct; 8 T Yates ORLE 27 Nov.

Com. Loon: 140 V Shadigee ORLE 14 Nov (WD,BP).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1158,892 BuSP 18,30 Sep (WW!).

Least Bittern: 1 WB 10 Sep; last 1 INWR 3 Oct (MM).

Green Heron: last 1 INWR 21 Oct.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1,2 INWR 18,25 Oct (R&DR!,BL!,KF!); 1 INWR 1 Nov (MM!).

Snow Goose: arr 1wh & 1 bl T. Wilson

NIAG 27 Sep (S&TO!).

Brant: arr 4 T Wilson NIAG 25 Oct.

EURASIAN WIGEON: 1 OOWMA 18 Oct (PY!).

N. Shoveler: 250 BWWTP 25 Oct (MM!,KF, et al).

Canvasback: arr 2 NF 16 Oct.

Ring-Necked Duck: arr 1 Tift NP 19 Sep; 909 BWWTP 1 Nov (MM!).

Greater Scaup: arr 13 NF 29 Sep; 3000 NF 8 Nov (MM!, et al).

Lesser Scaup: arr 1 Black Rock Canal BUFFALO 12 Sep (JnT).

Surf Scoter: arr 4 NF 9 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: arr 1 FNSP 27 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr 12 T Somerset NIAG 24 Oct (MM et al), first report for the year.
Oldsquaw: arr 300 T Somerset NIAG 24 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 NF 16 Oct.
Hooded Merganser: 90 INWR 27 Nov (MM).
Com. Merganser: arr 2 BWWT 8 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: 1400 Chautauqua Lake CHAU 20 Nov (RBA report).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 CSG 1 Nov (JG).
Broad-Winged Hawk: last 1 AL 19 Sep.
Rough-Legged Hawk: arr 3 T Carlton ORLE 24 Oct.
Merlin: arr 1 WB 19 Sep; 1 T. Wilson NIAG.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 NF 29 Sep; 2 ad NF 7 Nov (BP, et al).
Sora: last 1 BuSP 4 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: last 1 INWR 1 Nov (MM).
SANDHILL CRANE: 1 Roger Tory Peterson Institute Jamestown 9 Nov (JB).
Black-bellied Plover: last 1 WB 11 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: 60 Tift NP 5 Sep (MM!); last 1 INWR 10 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last 1 BWWT 1 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 17 BOS Count 11 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 INWR 17 Oct (MM).
Spotted Sandpiper: last 1 BOS Count 11 Oct.
Whimbrel: 1 Buffalo 7 Sep (JnT).
Sanderling: last 1 WB 11 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 Burgeson Nature Center CHAU 5 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last 1 BOS Count 11

Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last 3 T. Attica WYOM 29 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3 (2 adult, 1 Juvenile) Allegany Reservoir CATT 7 Sep(BS).
PARASITIC JAEGER: 1 DH 25 through 30 Nov (JG,DM,AB, et al).
Franklin's Gull: 1 T Lewiston 31 Oct (WD,BP), first report for year; birds continued to be reported thru 29 Nov from many WNY sites and adjacent Canadian shores, 1 to 3 birds per sighting.
Little Gull: 1-3 many lake shore areas 11 - 29 Nov (mob).
CALIFORNIA GULL: 1ad T Lewiston NIAG 15,21 Nov (WD).
Iceland Gull: arr 1 T Lewiston NIAG 15 Nov (WD,BP).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr 6 NF 29 Sep (WD,BP).
Glaucous Gull: 2 T. Lewiston NIAG 15 Nov (WD,BP); 1 NF 22 Nov.
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 2 imm Bird Island Pier BUFFALO 23 Nov (PY), while this is first report for New York territory, an immature bird was observed on the adjacent Canadian shore on 11 Nov.
Sabine's Gull: 1 WB 11 Nov (MT), first report for year.
Caspian Tern: last 1 DH 30 Sep.
Com. Tern: last 1 Bird Island Pier Buffalo 11 Nov (PY,BC).
Forster's Tern: 2 BeSP 25 Sep (PH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Chimney Swift: last 36 Silver Creek CHAU 3 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: last 1 Goat Island NF 15 Oct (WD,S&TO).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 State Lands T. Arkwright CHAU 18 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 1 T. Cold Springs CATT 16 Sep (WW!), first report for year.
Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher: last 1 Tifft NP 23 Sep (WW).
Least Flycatcher: last 1 AL 7 Oct (VP!).
Eastern Phoebe: last 1 GHSP 24 Oct (MM,WD).
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 Sheldon Trail T. Chautauqua CHAU 1 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 T Sheridan CHAU 2 Sep.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 INWR 1 Nov (S&IO!).
White-Eyed Vireo: 1 C Salamanca CATT 1 Nov (TB!).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 1 GI 1 Sep; last 2 T W Almond ALLE 12 Oct (PY,BH).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 INWR 16 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last Tifft NP 23 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1,1,1 Tifft NP, Eden Valley ERIE, GI 5 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 3 BOS Count 11 Oct.
Com. Raven: 2 T Weathersfield WYOM 22 Sep (DJ,?B).
Tree Swallow: last 2 T.Pomfret CHAU 24 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 1 BWWTP 3 Oct.
Barn Swallow: last 1,1BWWTP,INWR 17 Oct.
House Wren: last 1 WB 9 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 Buffalo 13 Sep.
Marsh Wren: last 1 WB 23 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1,1,1 WTSP, Wilson SP, FMSCP 7 Sep, very early.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Eggertsville ERIE 7 Sep (AM).

Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 T Somerset NIAG 7 Sep; last 1 Silver Creek CHAU 8 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr 1 T Porter NIAG 9 Sep.

Wood Thrush: last 1 Silver Creek CHAU 16 Sep.

Gray Catbird: last 1 Countryside Gravel Pits CATT 6 Nov (DN).

Brown Thrasher: last 1 BOS Count 11 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr 10 T Dayton CATT 13 Sep.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 1 GHSP 6 Nov (MM!).

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Goat Island NF 11 Sep (DonR!).

Tennessee Warbler: last T Pomfret CHAU 10 Oct (TeM).

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 Goat Island NF 13 Sep (BP), first report for the year.

Nashville Warbler: last 1 BOS Count 11 Oct.

N. Parula: arr GHSP 7 Sep; last 1 NF 21 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: last 1 Grand Island NF 17 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last ASP 17 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: last 2 BOS Count 11 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last 1 ASP 16 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 BOS Count 11 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 BOS Count 11 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 ASP 17 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 ASP 17 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 T Middlebury 3 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 Eden Valley ERIE 29 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last 1 Cattaraugus Creek CHAU/ERIE 10 Sep.
Ovenbird: last 1 Silver Creek CHAU 8 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last 1,1 Goat Island NF,GHSP 7 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: 1 T.Porter NIAG 9 Sep (SO), first report for the year.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 1 BeSP 28 Nov (D&DS).
Wilson's Warbler: last 1 ASP 29 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last 2 GHSP 7 Sep.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1 Goat Island NF 28 Sep (WW).
E. Towhee: last 1 T Hanover CHAU 8 Nov (DN).
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 5 V Olcott NIAG 22 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 FMSCP 19 Sep; last 5 BOS Count 11 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 GHSP 7 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 WTSP 19 Sep; last 1 V. Fredonia CHAU 24 Oct (DM).
Dark-eyed Junco: arr 1 FMSCP 13 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1 T Shelby ORLE 18 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr 3 V Olcott NIAG 22 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 8 BOS Count 11 Oct.
Bobolink: last 7 T Oakfield GENE 5 Oct (AK).
Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 INWR 9 Sep, third earliest recorded for Region..
Baltimore Oriole: last 1 Roger Tory Peterson Institute C. Jamestown 3 Sep.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 T Charlotte CHAU 13 Sep (RB).
Pine Siskin: arr 1 Goat Island NF 10 Sep. Remelm2463@aol.com

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The fall season was generally good, but there was not much in the line of interesting frontal systems to create bird movements of any magnitude. This is typical. September started things off with a 1°F above average temperature at 62.6°. The total rainfall of 3.00" was a mere 0.03" above normal. October was warm, dry and sunny. The average temperature was 0.1° above normal at 51.2°, while precipitation was just under an inch below normal at 1.45". The weekends were pleasant and the only snowfall was a trace in the higher elevations on the 21st and 22nd. Finally, November's average temperature was 1.3° above normal at 41.8°. There was again a lack of weather systems conducive to groundings or

other concentrations of migrants. The month was very dry, with only 1.41" of precipitation, just over 1.5" below normal. The snowfall total, only 0.1" on the 4th, contrasted sharply with last year's record snowfall total for this month.

Generally speaking it was a lackluster fall migration. The weather was rather benign except for periods of high winds in the early part of September and again in early November. The usual species were found within most groups. Numbers were typically average. The low water levels along the Lake Ontario shore provided some very good shorebird habitat, but unfortunately it reached this state a bit too late in the season.

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park was once again conducted by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and was manned principally by Gene Albanese. Red-throated Loon was again reported in September, as were Horned and Red-necked grebes. There were good numbers of Red-throated Loons still passing in the last half of November. Red-necked Grebes were not exceptionally abundant on any one day, but were seen frequently throughout the season. Northern Gannets proved to be one of the highlights of the lakewatch, with one sighting in October and six in November. All birds observed were immatures. Some early diving duck arrivals were noted, including both scaup species, all three scoters, Oldsquaw, and Red-breasted Merganser all tallied in September. Common and King eiders continued to be reported from the lakewatch this fall.

Cormorant numbers were down in general, but a max of 407 was observed at Hamlin Beach on 13 September. This was well above other seasonal counts. A wader of note was a Cattle Egret located by one of the field trips during the Annual Federation meeting in September. Good totals for American Bittern were tallied by Paul Spindler while spending large amounts of time in the marshes at Braddock Bay. The Glossy Ibis seen at Hemlock Lake by Kurt Fox on 8 November was only the second record for Livingston County.

N. Goshawk continues to be scarce, with but a single report in September and two in November. A number of observers commented on the decent number of Peregrine Falcon and Merlin sightings this season. There was a scattering of Rough-legged Hawks reported towards the end of the season, but no substantial concentrations.

The **Purple Gallinule** discovered at Irondequoit Bay in October by J. Sullivan was only the 2nd record for the Region. The bird was not seen by many observers but was photographed at close range by your Regional Editor.

The lake levels continued to drop, and there were some interesting shorebird reports, but generally numbers were not all that good. In September three Whimbrel put in a brief appearance at Charlotte. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported by Dave Tetlow at Hogan Point in Greece. At one point the bird was harrassed by a peregrine. A second bird was seen in October flying along the lake. Hudsonian Godwit and Long-billed Dowitcher were also reported in small numbers.

The gull and tern picture was not particularly noteworthy, but the presence of up to six Franklin's Gulls at Irondequoit Bay was of interest. Usually sightings in the Region are only of individuals. These birds were seen for quite a period of time. This seemed to coincide with reports from other areas in the East. Little Gulls continued to be reported at Charlotte, and a Black-headed Gull seen at Hamlin Beach in November was noteworthy. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were well reported this season, with adult birds being reported from Conesus Lake and Perinton. Both Iceland and Glaucous gulls made appearances at the end of the season. Jaeger totals at the lakewatch were mediocre.

There was only one fall report of Snowy Owl. Common Nighthawk numbers continued very poor. Common Raven continues to be reported south of Rochester; confirmed breeding shouldn't be too far away.

The passerine migration was far from spectacular, but there were some interesting reports. Flycatchers were well represented in the banding totals at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station run by the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. A few more Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted than in recent years. A number of observers commented on the good numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. This was also evident at the banding station. A few individuals fell within the overlap for Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's, some with other characteristics suggesting the latter. The warbler migration was again only fair. Bob Marcotte continued his study at Badgerow Park, where again Magnolias the most abundant but Cape May totals were up slightly. Three Connecticut Warblers were banded during the season as was a Yellow-breasted Chat. Sparrows were noted in their usual concentrations but seemed to linger for shorter periods this year. Of special note were a LeConte's Sparrow at Nations Road and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows along the lakeshore. Reports of this latter species were down, but so was suitable habitat. A lack of tanagers was noted by many observers. Crusoe Lake was once again a good place to be for blackbird observation, with huge numbers on 8 Nov. Finally, winter finches went virtually unreported for the season.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay; BP - Badgerow Park, Greece; C - Clyde, CH - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; CL - Conesus Lake; CR - Crusoe Lake, Wayne Co; CS - Conesus Swamp; G - Town of Greece, MONR; GE - Geneseo; HB - Hamlin Beach; HF - Honeoye Falls; HP - Hogan Point, Greece; IB - Irondequoit Bay; IC - Island Cottage Woods; M - Manitou (West side of Braddock Bay area); NR - Nation's Road, Geneseo; P - Town of Portage; R - Rush; SC - Salmon Creek, Greece; SP - Sodus Point; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 25 Sep;
max 1908 HB 25 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 1035 HB 11 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr 3 HB 20 Sep; max
200+ WL 24 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 4 HB 28 Sep.
N. Gannet: HB 25 Oct (WS,MD); HB 5
Nov (GA); HB 11-12 Nov (GA); Russell
Station 19 Nov (RMc); B 20 Nov
(WS,GA); HB 25 Nov (GA,WS,DSh); HB
27 Nov (GA,WS); HB 28 Nov (GA); all
single immatures.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 407 HB
13 Sep.

Am. Bittern: 11 BB 2 Oct; 16 BB 10 Oct (PS).
Cattle Egret: 1 SC 27 Sep.
Green Heron: last 1 CS 9 Oct.
Glossy Ibis: one HL 8 Nov.
Turkey Vulture: last 1 GE 11 Nov.
Snow Goose: arr 1 HB 6 Oct.
Brant: arr 14 HB 5 Oct; max 2452 HB 22 Oct;
last 12 IB 21 Nov.
Mute Swan: max 68 IB, BB 28 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: 1 WAYN 12 Sep; max 12
(10 ad, 2imm) WAYN 8 Nov, origin
unknown.
Tundra Swan: max 204 CL 14 Nov; 49
Mendon Ponds 22 Nov (KD), good total for
location

Blue-winged Teal: last HB 11 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 268 HB 22 Oct.
Canvasback: arr 6 HB 19 Oct.
Redhead: arr 1 G 15 Oct, late; max 1178 HB 28 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 G 26 Sep.
Greater Scaup: arr 3 HB 12 Sep; max 10543 HB 28 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr 4 HB 10 Sep.
King Eider: 1 imm male HB 25 Oct (WS,GA); one fem HB 1 Nov (WS,KF,MD); 3 HB 12 Nov (GA).
Harlequin Duck: 1 fem HB 7 Nov (KF,JBo).
Common Eider: 2 HB 26 Oct (GA), uncommon.
Surf Scoter: arr 4 HB 11 Sep, max 156 SP 31 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: arr 8 HB 10 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 28 Sep.
Oldsquaw: arr 1 HB 17 Sep.
Bufflehead: arr 5 HB 21 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 HB 12 Oct.
Hooded Merganser: max 150 HB 29 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 1 HB 20 Sep.
Ruddy Duck: max 59 CL 8 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: 1 G 20 Nov; 1 Parma 30 Nov, scarce.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 3 Parma 27 Oct.
PURPLE GALLINULE: 1 IB 11-12 Oct (JS,KG,JBa,DT,TH), second Regional record.
Am Coot: max 800 CL 29 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 36 SC 26 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: last 1 NR 21 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 IB 11 Oct.
Upland Sandpiper: last 1 GE 3 Sep.
Whimbrel: 3 CH 2 Sep, uncommon.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 Northrup Creek, G

4 Oct (A,D&DS,KW,R&SS).
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 IB 8 Nov (R&SS); 1 BB 25 Nov (PS).
Dunlin: arr 1-3 CH,SC 26 Sep; last 1 IB & 6 SC 15 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 HP 24 Sep (DT), last 1 G 3 Oct (KG), scarce.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 IB 3 Oct (DSh), 3 SC 3 Oct (R&SS).
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1 HB 22 Nov (WS), only report.
phalarope species: 3 HB 11 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 2 HB 28 Oct.
Parasitic Jaeger: 2 HB 22 Sep; 1 HB 30 Sep; 5 singles in Oct at HB; 1 HB 13 Nov.
jaeger species: 7 reports in Oct; 3 reports Nov.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 6 (5ad, 1 imm) IB 13 Nov (JH,RS,KF); 6 (4 ad, 2 imm) IB 21 Nov (RS); 1 ad HB 13 Nov (GA); one imm HB 14 Nov (GA).
Little Gull: 1-2 CH 12 Sep, seen off an on through the month; total 17 HB in Nov.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 HB 8 Oct (GA); 1 HB 8 Nov (GA,WS).
Iceland Gull: arr one HB 9 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 CL 13 Nov (JK); 1 Perinton 25 Nov (JD,DSh,CC); 1 CL 27 Nov (KF).
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 HB 5 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 HB 1 Nov; max 5 HB 13 Nov.
Forster's Tern: last 1 HB 14 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: arr 1 Pt Breeze 20 Nov.
Barred Owl: 1 HF 9 Nov, only report.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 HB 4 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Penfield 24 Oct (RMc), banded.
Com. Nighthawk: last 1 G 16 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last 1 G 7 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last 1 Conesus Inlet 12 Sep (JK).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 M 7 Sep; 1 M 9 Sep (RMc), both banded.

Traill's Flycatcher: last 1 Beatty Point 25 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr 1 NR 1 Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: M 21 Oct 21 Oct (RMc,RO'H), banded.

Com. Raven: 2 P 13 Oct (AW).

Horned Lark: max 400 NR 21 Nov.

Purple Martin: last 10 CL 12 Sep; 6 C 12 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 1 Cuylerville 13 Sep.

Bank Swallow: last 1 C 12 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 1 C 12 Sep.

Sedge Wren: last 2 NR 21 Sep (JK).

Marsh Wren: last 1 IB 28 Nov.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 M 7 Oct, banded.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: 1 M 5 Oct (EB), banded.

Am. Pipit: arr 1 Elba & 20 Hamlin 10 Sep; max 300 Avon 16 Nov.

European Starling: max 200,000-400,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob, WG)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 BP 23 Sep (Rma); last 1 P 25 Oct (AW).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 Durand-Eastman Park 12 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 4 Oct

Palm Warbler: arr 1 G 12 Sep; last 1 G 3 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: 1 M 17 Sep; 1 M 21 Sep; 1 M 22 Sep (EB), all banded.

Mourning Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: last 1 BP 23 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 M 23 Sep (EB), banded.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am Tree Sparrow: arr HP 17 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: last 2 HP 1 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: last 2 NR 12 Nov.

LECONTE'S SPARROW: 2 NR 13 Oct (JK,KF).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 HP 10 Oct (GC,DS); 1 HP 12 Oct (KG).

Fox Sparrow: arr 3 Rush 3 Oct; last 1 HF 17 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 P 5 Sep.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 BP 6 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 BB,IC 11 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr 2 HB 4 Oct; max 1000 HB 23 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HB 25 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last 1 P 2 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 75,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Com. Grackle: max 30,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 20,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Rusty Blackbird: max 1000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Com. Redpoll: 45 HB 9 Nov, only report.

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Fall 1998 was warmer and drier than normal. It was the warmest fall season since 1971. Precipitation was below normal all three months. Combined with the dry July and August, this resulted in lowered water levels in wetlands and rivers, providing some good habitat for shorebirds and forcing marshland birds into more open and viewable places.

Since this author does not have access to a compilation of the Region's records, comparisons of this year's statistics were done only with those of the past four years. In spite of the warm weather and the brevity of the period for comparing records, there were very few departure dates which could be called late. The reason for this may be that cold fronts passed through the Region every few days throughout the season, allowing for a rather normal progression of migration.

Field observers noted the migratory movements of at least a few species. They reported Common Nighthawks on numerous occasions in scattered places in September, though they observed no large concentrations, unlike many years in the past. Bill Evans recorded the calls of 16 night migrating Savannah Sparrows. Around Ithaca, three observers independently observed a large movement of Broad-winged Hawks on 17 September. Ken Rosenberg reported a heavy nocturnal migration of Green Herons on 22 September.

At Taughannock Falls State Park's Loonwatch, Bob Meade and assistants tallied notable movements of Common Loons 12 October and 2, 3, 12, 13, 21, 22, 24, and 27 November, with the peak on the last date.

After a slow spring for banding birds at the Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory (KHAMO) in the Town of Hector, John and Sue Gregoire enjoyed (endured?) their busiest fall season in thirteen years of operation, banding 2709 birds of 90 species. The peak day for numbers and diversity was 22 September, with 100 birds of 29 species banded. American Goldfinch ranked first in numbers with 525 individuals banded, a significant increase over last year. Other species showing significant increases were: Wilson's Warbler, Purple Finch, White-crowned Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole. Significantly decreasing were: Acadian Flycatcher, Black-throated Green Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Black-capped Chickadee, and Dark-eyed Junco. Three species were uncharacteristically absent: Swainson's Thrush,

Grasshopper Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow. On average, however, neotropical species were within norms.

White-crowned Sparrows seemed to be unusually numerous and widespread. At KHAMO, in addition to showing a significant increase, they were nearly as numerous as White-throated Sparrows. A very rare "Gambell's" White-crowned Sparrow was among those captured and banded. White-crowns arrived early at KHAMO and departed late from Matt Young's property. Only Dave Russell, needing it to reach his goal of 200 species in the Chemung Valley in a single year, seemed to have trouble finding it until he encountered a few at Mark Twain State Park 17 October.

Shorebirds were numerous at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and a nice variety also showed up at Myer's Point and at the Elmira Dam. In addition to the many warblers banded at KHAMO, good mixed flocks of warblers were present at Mundy Wildflower Garden, a part of Cornell Plantations at Cornell University and at Tanglewood Forest in Elmira.

Among the season's rarities were three very accommodating Am. White Pelicans at MNWR, Greater White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, Little Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Sedge Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted chat, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Dickcissel.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BeHi - Beam Hill TOMP, CGPd - Corning Glass Pond CHEM, ClFa - Clements Farm CHEM, DryL - Dryden Lake TOMP, ElDa - Elmira Dam CHEM, FBSa - Frenchman's Bluff Sanctuary, GlMe - Gleason Meadows CHEM, GRJH - George Republic Jr. High School, HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP, HoHo - Hog Hole TOMP, KHAMO - Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU, LakP - Lakeshore Park ONTA, LoPd - Lowe Pond, LPBP - Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MtPl - Mount Pleasant TOMP, MuLo - Mud Lock CAYU, MWCo - Montezuma Wetlands Complex, MyPt - Myer's Point TOMP, PSt - Park Station CHEM, Romu - Romulus, SaWo - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, TaFo - Tanglewood Forest CHEM, TBFl - T Big Flats, TCAH - The Center at Horseheads, TCar - T Caroline, TDry - T Dryden, TFSP - Taughannock Falls State Park, THec - T Hector, TJer - T Jerusalem, WDan - West Danby.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 StP 1 Sep (JonK!), early; max 3 TFSP 13 Nov; last 1 TFSP 21 Nov.
Com. Loon: thru; max 1587 TFSP 27 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 35 DryL 11 Oct.
Horned Grebe: arr 4 DryL 23 Oct; max 30 LakP 7 Nov (LBe), 5-yr high.
Eared Grebe: 1 LakP 7 Nov (LBe!), only report.
AM. WHITE PELICAN: 3 MNWR 23 Sep -1 Nov (mob).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 204 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 Ithaca 28 Nov.

Am. Bittern: max 2 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 MNWR 29 Nov (G&PK), very late.
Great Blue Heron: max 20 MNWR 17 Oct; last 3 DryL 25 Nov.
Great Egret: 8 Elmira 12 Sep; max 28 MNWR 24 Sep (fide CTH), 5-yr high; last 1 Wilawana Gravel Pit CHEM 18 Nov (JOs), very late.
Green Heron: "heavy nocturnal migration" TDry 22 Sep (KR); last 1 T Chemung 1 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 9 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 MNWR 27 Sep.
Turkey Vulture: max 200 TDry 11 Oct

(MY), 5-yr high; last 3 MtPl 3 Nov.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:

arr 1 MNWR 11 Oct (GC Mob); max 2 Arnot Forest 14 Oct (DSc fide RBo); last 1 StP 21-23 Nov (mob).

Snow Goose: 2 StP to 2 Sep (MSa); arr 12 KHAMO 7 Oct; max 100 MNWR 15 Nov, 5-yr low.

Brant: arr 25 TDry 12 Oct; max 52 TFSP 27 Oct; 40 HoHo 9 Nov; last 40 TFSP 10 Nov.

Mute Swan: arr 1 MWCo 12 Sep; max 4 CaL 27 Nov (KG RW), 5-yr high.

Tundra Swan: arr 27 TFSP 12 Nov; max 378 MNWR 30 Nov (JVN), 5-yr high.

Trumpeter Swan: 1 MWCo 12 Sep (MMR).

Wood Duck: max 47 CGPd 2 Sep; last 5 MNWR 15 Nov (MY,CBCI).

Gadwall: thru; max 201 MNWR 10 Nov (MY), 5-yr high.

Am. Wigeon: thru; max 140 MNWR 27 Sep.

Am. Black Duck: max 301 MNWR 10 Nov (MY).

Mallard: max 501 MNWR 10 Nov (MY).

Blue-winged Teal: max 31 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH,JMo), 5-yr high; last 1 MNWR 10 Nov.

N. Shoveler: thru; max 61 MNWR 10 Nov (MY), 5-yr high.

N. Pintail: thru; max 20 TFSP 29 Oct; 6 KHAMO 24 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: thru; max 101 MNWR 2 Sep.

Canvasback: arr 1 GRJH 2 Oct; max 1001 MNWR 10 Nov.

Redhead: arr 1 HoHo 6 Oct; max 4 Union Springs Pd CAYU 29 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 GRJH 10 Oct; max 90 DryL 17 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 3 TOMP 21 Oct; max 6 MyPt 8 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr 8 DryL 27 Oct; max 26 MyPt 15 Nov.

scaup (sp): 1 MuLo 5-12 Sep (B&JOs, MMR), early.

scoter (sp): max 35 TFSP 3 Nov (MY,BMe), 5-yr high for any scoter; last 2 TFSP 22 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 1 DryL 26 Oct (MY), only report

White-winged Scoter: arr 1 MNWR 12 Oct; max 22 TFSP 3 Nov; last 3 TFSP 13 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 1 MyPt 27 Oct; max 16 TFSP 13 Nov; last 16 TFSP 13 Nov.

Oldsquaw: 6 TFSP 29 Oct; 1 TFSP 22 Nov, only reports.

Bufflehead: arr 8 TOMP 21 Oct; ~100 Aurora Bay CAYU, 10 Nov; max 100+ CaL 15 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 TFSP 29 Oct; max 10 CaL 15 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: thru; max 76 MNWR 10 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 50+ DryL 27 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 7 GRJH 9 Oct (MY); max 30 Seneca Lake SENE 26 Nov; ia surfeit MNWR 29 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr 2 DryL 9 Oct (MY), early; max 54 DryL 11 Oct; last 1 PSt 14 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: thru; 1 MiHi 19 Sep; 1 DryL 24 Sep; 1 KHAMO 25 Oct; 1 Chemung River STEU after 10 Nov; max 3 MNWR 4 Oct.

N. Harrier: max 8 THec 4 Oct (fide CTH); 5 KHAMO 20 Oct.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: "lots" Etna 11 Oct (Al&JWe).

Cooper's Hawk: flight KHAMO 10 Sep (J&SGr).

N. Goshawk: 2 KHAMO 22 Sep; 2 TDry 4 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 KHAMO 9 Sep (J&SGr); 1 MtPl 29 Oct (MY), only reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: 139 MtPl 17 Sep; 255 MiHi 17 Sep; max 401 THec 17 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 12 MtPl 29 Oct; 8 Cornell Pheasant Farm TOMP 12 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 TDry 11 Oct; max 2 T Genoa 27 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 2 THec 4 Oct (fide CTH); 1 TDry 1 Nov (KR,J&KMc), only reports.

Am. Kestrel: max 5 CaL Basin 9 Nov; 4 T Covert 27 Nov.

Merlin: thru; max 2 MNWR 4 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 MNWR 25 Sep; 1 MNWR to 10 Nov; 1 Elmira 30 Sep (DRu), only report away from MNWR.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 1 KHAMO 10 Sep - 30 Nov; 1 MWCo 12 Sep; 1 TBFl 22 Oct; only reports.

Ruffed Grouse: max 4 KHAMO 28 Nov.

Wild Turkey: max 78 Romu 29 Nov.

N. Bobwhite: 12 T Hect 20 Oct (ND), probable releases.

Virginia Rail: max 2 LoPd 7 Sep; 2 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 TCAH 24 Oct, late.

Sora: max 2 MNWR 12 Sep; 1 LoPd 30 Sep; last 1 MNWR 13 Oct.

Com. Moorhen: max 4 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 LoPd 30 Sep.

Am. Coot: 75 StP 11 Oct; max "a few hundred" MyPt 17 Nov.

SANDHILL CRANE: 1 MWCo 23-25 Nov (PH).

Black-bellied Plover: max 23 MNWR 18 Oct; no reports away from MNWR.

Am. Golden-Plover: 1 MyPt 10-11 Sep; 4 EIDa 19 Sep, rare in CHEM; max 13 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 MNWR 5 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: 3 SaMu 2 Sep; 1

EIDa 9-10 Sep; max 100+ MNWR 2 Sep, 5-yr high.

Killdeer: thru; 31 MNWR 2 Sep; 54 LoPd 12 Oct; max 60 KHAMO 7 Oct; 2 Elmira 23 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 EIDa 28 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 200 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH,JMo), 5-yr high.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 LoPd 30 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 2 StP 3 Sep.

Whimbrel: 1 EIDa 15 Sep (DR), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH JMo), only report.

Sanderling: max 2 MyPt 3 Sep.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 71 MNWR 2 Sep.

W. Sandpiper: 1 MWCo 12 Sep (MMR).

Least Sandpiper: max 151 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH JMo), 5-yr high.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 16 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH JMo); last 1 MWCo 12 Sep (MMR).

Baird's Sandpiper: max 1 MNWR 2 Sep; last 1 MNWR 27 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 46 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH JMo); last 1 LoPd 14 Nov (BiOs), late.

Dunlin: arr 1 MWCo 12 Sep; max 30 MNWR 17 Oct, low.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 15 MNWR 2 Sep; last 9 MNWR 27 Sep.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 6 NYS Chiropractic College 7 Oct (fide CTH), Regional record high, only report, late.

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 41 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH JMo), 5-yr high; last 22 MNWR 27 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 LoPd 29-30 Sep (Bi&JOs), very rare in CHEM; max 20 MNWR 5 Oct (JaGr), 5-yr high; last 1 MNWR 13 Oct.

Com. Snipe: 1 TDry 9 Oct; max 150 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH JMo), 5-yr high; last 6 LoPd 25 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: 1 MWCo 12 Sep (MMR); 1 LPBP 24 Sep; 1 THec 13 Oct; 1 KHAMO 13 Sep-31 Oct; last T Elmira 30 Nov (BiOs), late.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 SaMu 2 Sep; last 1 MNWR 18 Oct (M&YU).

LITTLE GULL: 1 MNWR 7 Nov (LBe!).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 ElDa 20 Oct; 1 MyPt 23 Oct; 3 ElDa 4 Nov; 1 MNWR 7 Nov; last 3 Elmira 13 Nov.

Ring-billed Gull: 850 Elmira 5 Nov; 1000 KHAMO 18 Nov; max 12000+ CaL 23 Nov (BEv,KD), 5-yr high.

Herring Gull: 130 Elmira 28 Oct; max 4000+ CaL 23 Nov (BEv,KD).

Iceland Gull: 1 Elmira 27 Oct-13 Nov (CVAS), early; max 2 Elmira 3-5 Nov (BiOs), 5-yr high.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr 1 MNWR 13 Sep; max 3 CaL 23 Nov (BEv,KD), 5-yr high; 1 Elmira 6 Nov; 1 Seneca Falls 24 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 150 CaL 23 Nov (BEv,KD).

Caspian Tern: 2 Beebe Lake 1 Sep; 2 MyPt 1 Sep; 2 StP 2 Sep; 1 MuLo 12 Sep; max 14 MNWR 2 Sep (CTH,JMo), 5-yr high; last 1 DryL 11 Oct (KR), late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 126 Cohocton 8 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 KHAMO 1-29 Sep; 1 MWCo 12 Sep.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 MWCo 12 Sep; 1 LoPd 16 Oct (Bi&JOs), late; only reports.

E. Screech-Owl: max 2 Brooktondale Road TCar 11 Sep.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 KHAMO 12 Nov.

Barred Owl: 1 MWCo 12 Sep (MMR), only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 T Lansing 29 Nov (KE,BEv), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: max 20 Elmira 4 Sep; last 2 Elmira 24 Sep.

Whip-poor-will: 1 T Ulysses 5 Sep (Sa&ScSu), only report.

Chimney Swift: max 3 GIMe 24 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 12 KHAMO 10 Sep (J&SGr), 5-yr high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 SaWo 6 & 15 Sep; 1 MWCo 12 Sep; 1 TaFo 17 & 24 Sep; 1 Pst 19 Sep; last 1 Lehigh Valley Railroad TDry 29 Sep.

Downy Woodpecker: max 6 FBSa 3 Oct.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 KHAMO after 3 Sep (J&SGr); max 3 GIMe 3 Oct (Bi&JOs RCl).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 KHAMO 9 Sep (J&SGr); 1 Lehigh Valley Railroad TDry 29 Sep (YU, CCBSG), only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 10 SaWo Road TDry 2 Sep (KR), 5-yr high; 1 KHAMO 4 Oct (J&SGr), late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1 SaWo Road TDry 2,16 Sep; 1 KHAMO 3-4, 14-16 Sep; 1 TaFo 17 Sep; 1 Mistry Property 24 Sep; more than usual.

Alder Flycatcher: 1 KHAMO thru 10 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: 1 KHAMO thru 10 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: max 4 KHAMO 16 Sep (J&SGr).

E. Phoebe: max 7 CorU 14 Sep.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 MWCo 12 Sep, only report.

E. Kingbird: 1 MWCo 12 Sep, only report.

N. Shrike: 1 Etna 25 Nov (JWe), 1 Harris Hill Park 28 Nov (CVAS); only reports.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 HHSF 23 Sep (fide CTH).

Blue-headed Vireo: max 3 TaFo 23 Sep.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 ClFa 3 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 StP 4 Sep, 5-yr high; last 1 KHAMO 30 Sep, banded, late.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 SaWo 2 Sep; max 3 SaWo Road TDry 2 Sep; last 1 SaWo 20 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 6 ClFa 3 Sep, 5-yr high.

Blue Jay: max 16 GIMe 3 Oct.

Am. Crow: max 1200 KHAMO 26 Oct, 5-yr high.

Fish Crow: max 5 Elmira Free Academy 4 Nov.

Com. Raven: max 4 GIMe 3 Oct (Bi&JOs,RCl).

Horned Lark: 75 TDry 11 Nov; max 100 KHAMO 13 Nov.

Purple Martin: max and last 10 MNWR 12 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 20,550 MNWR 12 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max and last 50 MNWR 12 Sep.

Bank Swallow: max and last 2 MNWR 5 & 12 Sep.

Barn Swallow: 40 T Romu 5 Sep; max 50 T Reading 5 Sep, 5-yr high; last 1 Dean's Cove SP SENE 22 Nov (GKI MH), very late.

Cliff Swallow: max 3 MNWR 10 Sep, 5-yr high; last 2 MNWR 18 Oct (M&YU), late.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 27 GIMe 3 Oct.

Tufted Titmouse: max 8 CorU 9 Sep.

Carolina Wren: max 2 Keith Lane TDry 30 Sep.

House Wren: max 6 SaWo 9 Sep, 5-yr high; last 1 KHAMO 4 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 2 SaWo 16 Sep, low.

SEDGE WREN: 1 LoPd 30 Sep (DR!), first record CHEM.

Marsh Wren: 3 SaMu 2 Sep; max 4 MNWR 5 Sep; last 1 LoPd 23 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 MNWR 5 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1 WDan 8 Sep (GK); max 24 TDry 11 Oct (Al&JWe), 5-yr high; last 1 KHAMO 31 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 6 SaWo 9 Sep (MME JBa), 5-yr high.

E. Bluebird: max 8 KHAMO 22 Sep.

Veery: max 2 MNWR 5 Sep; last 1 KHAMO 30 Sep (J&SGr), late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 5 Ithaca 16 Sep (BEv); max 10 TDry 22 Sep (KR), 5-yr high; last 1 KHAMO 11 Oct, banded.

Swainson's Thrush: arr 1 SaWo 7 Sep; max 10 TDry 22 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: max 4 KHAMO 17 Oct; last 1 KHAMO 31 Oct.

Wood Thrush: max 10 TDry 22 Sep; last 1 KHAMO 4 Oct (J&SGr), late.

Am. Robin: max 101 ClFa 3 Sep.

Gray Catbird: max 11 PSt 19 Sep, 5-yr high.

N. Mockingbird: max 5 StP 4 Sep, 5-yr high.

Brown Thrasher: max 2 WDan 12 Sep.

European Starling: max 1200 Elmira 4 Nov.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 MyPt 7 Sep; max 12 MNWR 18 Oct; last 1 LoPd 14 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 KHAMO 7 Nov.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 KHAMO 2-4 Sep (J&SGr); 1 CorU 3-4 Sep (BT); only reports.

Tennessee Warbler: max 2 KHAMO 22 Sep, banded; last 1 KHAMO 19 Oct (J&SGr), banded, very late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 KHAMO 22-24 Sep; 1 KHAMO 30 Sep; 1 KHAMO 11 Oct; last 1 BeHi 13 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 4 KHAMO 3 Oct, 5-yr high.

N. Parula: 1 CorU 9-14 Sep; max 2 CorU 15 Sep; 2 Lansing 18 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: 1 MWCo 12 Sep; 1 SaWo 15-16 Sep; only reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 CorU 9 Sep, 5-yr high.

Magnolia Warbler: max 8 WDan 3 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: 1 CorU 10 Sep; max 3 TaFo 16 Sep (Bi&JOs), 5-yr high.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 WDan 3 Sep; max 2 TaFo 21 Sep; 1 KHAMO 24-27 Sep..

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 36 Mark Twain SP 17 Oct; last 1 KHAMO 31 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 6 PSt 19 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 3 CorU 8 Sep.

Pine Warbler: max 2 WDan 2 Oct; last 1 FBSa 3 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: 1 WDan 3 Sep (GK), only report.

Palm Warbler: arr 2 LoPd 11 Sep (MP); max 5 KHAMO 22 Sep (J&SGr), banded, 5-yr high; last 1 KHAMO 21 Oct (J&SGr), banded.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 CorU 8 Sep; max 7 TaFo 13 Sep (DR), 5-yr high.

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 ClFa 3 Sep; max 8 TaFo 13 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 2 CorU 9

Sep, 5-yr high.

Am. Redstart: max 10 TaFo 21 Sep (BiOs), 5-yr high.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: 1 ClFa 3 Sep (RC).

Ovenbird: max 2 WDan 8 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: 1 SaWo 20 Sep (CB), only report.

Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 KHAMO 14-16 Sep (J&SGr); last 1 KHAMO 22 Sep (J&SGr).

Mourning Warbler: 1 KHAMO 14-16 Sep (J&SGr), only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 11 ClFa 3 Sep (RC).

Hooded Warbler: max 4 BeHi 11 Sep (J&KM), 5-yr high; last 2 BeHi 23 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 4 KHAMO 10 Sep, 5-yr high.

Canada Warbler: 1 MNWR 12 Sep; last 1 KHAMO 10-16 Sep (J&SGr).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 HHSF 23 Sep (fide CTH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Etna Nature Preserve TOMP 22 Sep (CTH), 5-yr high.

E. Towhee: max 17 GlMe 3 Oct (CVAS), 5-yr high.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 12 Sugar Hill State Forest SCHU 3 Oct (J&SGr), early; max 40 LoPd 14 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 3 PSt 19 Sep; last 1 TDry 13 Nov (MY).

Field Sparrow: max 13 GlMe 24 Sep; last 1 KHAMO 26 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 DryL 11 Oct (MY), only report.

Savannah Sparrow: 2 TCAH 7 Sep; max "numerous" night migrants Ithaca 16 Sep (BEv); 1 MNWR 27 Sep; last 1 KHAMO thru 30 Sep.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPAR-

ROW: 1 DryL 10 Oct (BPr,CBCI).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 TDry 15 Oct; max 9 LPBP 5 Nov (GK), 5-yr high; last 5 TDry 13 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 20 DryL 17 Oct; last 1 KHAMO 21 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 KHAMO 8 Sep, early; max 3 Ithaca 16 Sep, 5-yr high.

Swamp Sparrow: 8 LoPd 5 Oct; last 2 LoPd 14 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 MWCo 12 Sep; max 30 TDry 11 Oct; last 5 TDry 17 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 KHAMO 23 Sep, early; max 22 TDry 23 Oct, 5-yr high; last 1 TDry 22 Nov (MY), late.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 18 TBFI 25 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: arr and max 5 TJer 2 Nov (BGU), 5-yr high; 3 TDry 6 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr 15 MyPt 21 Oct; max 50 TJer 2 Nov; 50 MyPt 3 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 Ithaca 16 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last 1 KHAMO 30 Sep.

DICKCISSEL: 1 DryL 11 Oct (KR!).

Bobolink: max 20 SaMu 2 Sep; last 1 MWCo 12 Sep (MMR), late.

E. Meadowlark: 6 TBFI 2 Sep; max 20 TDry 11 Oct (Al&JWe), 5-yr high; last 1 KHAMO 20 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 1 SaWo 22 Sep; max 119 LoPd 23 Oct; last 12 LoPd 14 Nov.

Com. Grackle: max 420 PSt 19 Sep; last 5 CaL 27 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 10 LoPd 23 Oct; last 10 CaL 27 Nov (KG,RW).

Baltimore Oriole: 2 ClFa 3 Sep (RC), only report.

Purple Finch: 1 TCar 6 Oct; 1 GIMe 19 Oct; max 2 SaWo 17 Oct; last 1 KHAMO to 25 Nov; only reports.

House Finch: max 25 TDry 8 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 48 KHAMO 1 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 SaWo 7 Nov; 1 DryL 16-17 Nov; only reports.

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REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Temperatures were warmer than average during the season, continuing the pattern for 1998. All three months were drier than usual. September had an average temperature of 64°F, 2.5° above normal and rainfall of 2.41 inches, 1.38 inches below normal. The October average temperature was 51.9°F, 1.2° above normal, with 2.53 inches of rain which was 0.71 inches below normal. In November the average temperature was 41.7°, 1.2° above normal, with 2.06 inches of rain, 1.66 inches below

normal. There was no snow in Syracuse for the period and only several quickly melting inches in areas east of Lake Ontario. From the Adirondacks Gary Lee reported the first snow on the ground on 21 October but there was never much accumulation.

During the fierce 7 September Labor Day thunderstorm or "derecho," a maximum wind speed of 77 mph was recorded at the Syracuse airport where statistics are recorded. Further south, at the center of the storm, winds approached 100 mph. The storm hit early in the morning and caused widespread damage, with trees and limbs falling onto power lines, roofs, and cars. Observers in the affected area had too many immediate concerns to notice local birdlife, but there were reports of dead robins, Blue Jays, and doves.

For the second straight year, and for only the third time, Great Cormorant was sighted in the Region when an adult accompanied by a juvenile was found in Oswego in late November. A record number of Great Egrets stayed well into September at Delta Lake, where the water level was very low, and at ponds in West Monroe. Greater White-fronted Goose was again found with flocks of Canada Geese in northern Cayuga County. The warm season affected waterfowl migration allowing many birds to linger further north than usual. Several large flocks of Snow Geese were noted toward the end of November, when only stragglers are normally found. Counts for many diving ducks were low, suggesting they had not yet arrived in any numbers. The Brant flight was virtually absent. As normally several thousand on a good flight day is not unusual, quite likely they moved on days when there were no observers.

Hawk migration numbers were generally low, although the prevailing northwesterly winds do not concentrate raptors past any point in the Region. A dark immature Gyrfalcon was seen flying over Rome on October 11 and it was carefully described by Dave Cesari (report to NYSARC), who is quite familiar with Peregrine Falcon and Merlin from his Delta Lake observations. There were two Golden Eagles for the season. This species certainly moves through every fall but is rarely recorded. Observers felt both N. Harrier and Am. Kestrel were relatively common through November, and reports of Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk were also good. Rough-legged Hawks did not seem to be setting up many winter territories, although ten migrants passing Pulaski on a single October day was a good count.

Ruffed Grouse was well reported, as expected following reports of a good breeding season. A Sandhill Crane seen at dusk on 14 November at Biddlecum Pond in Schroepel was only the third fall record for the

Region. It was still present early the next morning. Delta Lake water levels were the lowest that anyone could remember, and the shorebirding was good although not as impressive as 1997. Long-billed Dowitchers, which persisted for a month, were the highlight. Black-bellied Plover and Am. Golden- Plover utilized muckland farms south of Oneida Lake for several weeks, but there were no reports of Hudsonian Godwit or Whimbrel and few reports of Ruddy Turnstone or Red Knot.

The timing of the September and October low pressure systems moving through James Bay in Ontario were such that the strong northwest winds which bring waterbird flights to Derby Hill on eastern Lake Ontario had often turned to west or southwest by daylight. This, and lack of full time coverage, resulted in no jaegers being seen for the season. The mild season was most likely a factor in the large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls found in Region 5 in November, when they would usually be farther to the west. It's probably not a coincidence that Little Gull, which associates with Bonaparte flocks, was seen in the largest numbers of the decade in November. All sightings of Little Gull and of Black-legged Kittiwake, for which there was also multiple sightings, are reported although there is no way to establish exactly how many individuals were involved. The strong low pressure system that swept across the U.S. and Canada on 10 November brought the first Franklin's Gulls to the Region since 1991. Iceland and Glaucous gulls arrived at the end of November. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in Oswego Harbor provided the first fall record, but it was certainly no surprise considering the numbers now being reported on Lake Ontario.

It looked like another poor year for Snowy Owl, with only one sighting. In addition, no one reported any roosts of Short-eared Owls. Only a few Northern Shrikes were seen and none was persistent.

Flycatcher and swallow numbers remained low and most departed early. Golden-crowned Kinglets were around in good numbers through the end of the season. There were some strong warbler movements in early September, especially in the Verona Beach woods. The best numbers were noted on 8 September, the day after Labor Day Storm. The only Orange-crowned Warbler noted was early on 3 September. An uncommon fall Prairie Warbler was also seen. There was another good passerine flight following a cold front on 22 September, which brought the last large push of warblers. The peak of sparrow migration also started with the passage of that front and lasted through 5 October. Lincoln's Sparrows were found in good numbers, as were White-crowned Sparrows, most of which seemed to be immatures. Finches were practically nonexistent, with the exception of small numbers of Purple Finches

observed during the last half of the season and a few Red Crossbills found in the Adirondacks. Bohemian Waxwing was unreported. House Finch seemed to be rebounding slightly from the lows of the previous two years.

A total of 226 species was seen for the season, a little below average but about up to expectations for a non-finch year. Highlights included **Great Cormorant**, Greater White-fronted Goose, **Gyr Falcon**, Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Dowitcher, Little Gull, Franklin's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, and Prairie Warbler. Misses were Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, jaegers, Black Tern, Purple Martin, Veery and Northern Waterthrush.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bvile - Baldwinsville; BRH - Bishop Road Hawk lookout, Pulaski; CM - Clay Marsh; DH - Derby Hill; DL - Delta Lake; FH - Fair Haven; Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral; OneiL - Oneida Lake; SPd - Sandy Pond; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr - Syracuse; UM - Utica Marsh; W H - Whiskey Hollow; T Van Buren; WPd - Woodman Pond, T Eaton.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 2 Oswego 28 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 12 FH 14 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 FH 1 Nov; 7 WPd 14 Oct.

Horned Grebe: max 89 DH 9 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: DH 23 Oct; DL 22 Nov.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 ad and 1 imm Oswego 25 Nov thru (GP, mob, NYSARC).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 121 SPd 11 Sep, low.

Am. Bittern: 2 W Monroe 7 Sep, only report.

Great Blue Heron: max 50 DL 17 Sep.

Great Egret: max 22 DL 14 Sep; also 5 W

Monroe thru mid Sep, record numbers;
last 2 SVB 1 Oct.

Green Heron: max 10 UM 3 Sep; last UM
3 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 SVB 1
Sep, only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 39 BRH 26 Oct.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:
1 *frontalis* Cato 22 Oct (GP).

Snow Goose: arr 1 SVB 23 Sep; 200 W
Winfield 28 Nov and 300 WPd 30 Nov,
late for so many.

Brant: arr DH 1 Oct; max 360 SPd 25 Oct;
5 lingered FH thru.

Mute Swan: max 3 WPd 5 Nov thru.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 FH 8 Nov; max 10
DL 21 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 1540 Toad Harbor 7
Sep; 20 Rome 24 Nov, late for so many.

Gadwall: max 36 FH 22 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: arr UM 3 Sep; max 220 DH
1 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 191 DH 1 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 20 DL 1 Sep; last
7 DL 7 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 2 SVB 1 Sep; max 12 FH 1
Nov.

N. Pintail: arr LOL 6 Sep; max 682 DH 1
Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 150 DL 16 Oct.

Canvasback: up to 4 FH Nov, only
report.

Redhead: max 10 FH 3 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 70 WPd 30
Nov; scarce Oneil and L Ontario.

Greater Scaup: max 110 DH 22 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: max 20 FH 15 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr & max 80 DH 1 Oct; one
fem L Moraine 28 Oct - 8 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr DH 1 Oct; max
350 DH 21 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr LOL 26 Sep; max 20

DH 21 Nov; 4 UM 22 Oct, unusual loca-
tion.

Oldsquaw: max 550 DH 21 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr WPd and DH 23 Oct;
max 70 Onondaga L 3 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 25 Oct; max
300 Oneil 3 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 40 DL 16 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 100 DL 23 Nov &
100 SB 20 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max only 20-
50 per day LOL where usually in 100's.

Ruddy Duck: arr 38 DH 1 Oct; max 70
Minoa 15 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: max 3 BRH 8 Sep; only 3 reports
after 1 Oct.

Bald Eagle: max 4 imm DL 13 Oct; reports
of 9 others on major waterways.

N. Harrier: max 17 BRH 8 Sep; many sin-
gles thru.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 14 BRH 24
Sep; 22 others.

Cooper's Hawk: max 3 BRH 29 Oct; 18
others.

N. Goshawk: 1 BRH 26 Oct; 1 imm Tassel
Hill ONEI 31 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 8 reports for sea-
son, good; last 14 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 9 BRH 15 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 97 BRH 29 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr LOL 20 Oct;
max 10 BRH 26 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 1 BRH 29 Oct; 1 W
Winfield 11 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 7 BRH 13 Sep; many
present through Nov.

Merlin: 7 Sep reports; last DL 13 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 Lakeport 4 Oct; 1
imm male *tundrius* DL 21 Oct-3 Nov; 1
DH 11 Nov.

GYRFALCON: 1 dark morph Rome 11 Oct (DC!, NYSARC).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 5 singles.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 Kirkland 10 Sep; reports of 50+ individuals.

Wild Turkey: max 30 Hastings 29 Nov; increase continues.

Virginia Rail: singles at 4 sites Sep; last 2 UM 3 Oct.

Com. Moorhen: max 17 W Monroe 7 Sep; last UM 2 Nov.

Am. Coot: 3 W Monroe 24 Sep, probable breeders; max 120 WPd 25 Nov.

SANDHILL CRANE: 1 Schroepel 14 Nov (BP, NYSARC), third fall record.

Black-bellied Plover: max 43 DL 25 Sep; 40 Lakeport 4 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr DL 11 Sep; max 22 Lakeport 22 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 50 DL 1 Sep.

Killdeer: max 120 DL 25 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 25 DL 1 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 70 DL 5 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 DL 19 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: last DL 25 Sep.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 3 SPd 6-13 Sep.

Red Knot: 1 SVB to 4 Sep, only report.

Sanderling: max 110 SPd 25 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 175 DL 1 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: max 35 DL 1 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 7 DL 1 Sep; last 3 DL 16 Oct.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 3 DL 6 Sep; last 1 SPd 25 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 120 DL 16 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper: singles FH 5-28 Nov; 2 Oswego 24 Nov.

Dunlin: max 50 SPd 25 Oct and DL 26 Oct; last two DL 16 Nov.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last DL 19 Sep.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: up to 10

DL 17 Sep - 16 Oct, record count; last 4 Hinckley Res 19 Oct.

Com. Snipe: singles UM 3 Oct and SPd 25 Oct, only reports.

Am. Woodcock: max 5 W Monroe 27 Sep; 6 other singles.

Red Phalarope: 2 DH 23 Oct; 1 SPd 25 Oct; 1 imm FH 21-29 Nov.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: 2 ad Oswego 12 Nov, first Regional sighting since 1991 (GP); 1 FH 15 Nov.

Little Gull: 3 DH 15 Nov; 4 DH 24 Nov; 1 Oswego 24 Nov, sightings involved a minimum of 4 in 3 plumages.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 720 FH 8 Nov.

Iceland Gull: singles DL 16 Nov and Oswego 22 Nov.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: 1 ad Oswego 31 Oct (BP), first fall record.

Glaucous Gull: 1 DH 24 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 DH 11 Nov; 3 DH 15 Nov; 1 DH 21 Nov; 3 DH 24 Nov, all first winter.

Caspian Tern: max 20 SPd 1 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 300 SVB 6 Sep.

Forster's Tern: 1 SPd to 6 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 169 Cicero Center 6 Nov.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Bville 12 Sep.

E. Screech-Owl: 3 reports.

Great Horned Owl: 4 reports.

Snowy Owl: 1 Oswego 21 Nov.

Barred Owl: singles Lee 1 & 14 Sep; Kirkland 29 Oct; SVB 18 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: 1 DH 31 Oct, only report.

Com. Nighthawk: max 7 Syr 1 Sep; 3 Syr 6 Sep; last 1 Pratt's Falls 14 Sep.

Chimney Swift: max 50 UM 3 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: ad feeding fl New Hartford 5 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 ad SVB 8 Sep, only report.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4/day 18 Sep - 7 Oct.

N. Flicker: max 8/day 8-21 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles W Winfield 3 Sep and W Monroe 7 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 3 Pratt's Falls 14 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Sangerfield 28 Sep, late.

E. Phoebe: max 10 Pompey 14 Sep.

E. Kingbird: 2 N Syr 2 Sep; 2 W Winfield 9 Sep, only reports.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 imm T Scriba 12 Oct (TSI, NYSARC), 3rd Regional record.

N. Shrike: singles Clay 19 Oct, early; Kirkland 5 Nov; 1 W Winfield 19 Nov; FH 22 Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 SVB 23 Sep.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last two DL 22 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: max 5 DL 14 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 16 Sep reports; last 27 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 25 DL 14 Sep; max 8 Pratt's Falls 14 Sep.

Blue Jay: max 83 Pompey 18 Sep.

Am. Crow: max 2600 BRH 26 Oct, a continuous line for nearly 2 hours.

Fish Crow: 2 Syr thru.

Com. Raven: regular Old Forge along roads; no reports away from Adks.

Horned Lark: 2 Lakeport 19 Sep; 12 Bvile 17 Oct; max 24 Lakeport 21 Oct.

Tree Swallow: max 250 Pulaski 8 Sep; 2 Nov reports.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 4 FH 3 Oct.

Bank Swallow: last SVB 9 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max and last 30 Mexico 9 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 2 SPd 6 Sep.

Boreal Chickadee: 2 HERK sightings: Rock Dam 20 Sep; Windfall Pd 10 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 Kirkland 5 Oct, little movement noted.

Brown Creeper: max only 4/day Sep, Oct.

Carolina Wren: 5 at 4 sites.

Winter Wren: max 6/day 20 Sep - 9 Oct.

Marsh Wren: max 8 CM 27 Sep; last two UM 22 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 28 Kirkland 30 Sep; good numbers through Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Hastings 6 Sep; max 31 DL 29 Sep; last Kirkland 29 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last DL 11 Sep.

E. Bluebird: max 25 T Western 5 Oct.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles Pompey 20 Sep and Sterling 23 Sep; max and last 2 T Onondaga 28 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: arr New Hartford 5 Sep; 10 singles reported.

Hermit Thrush: max 3/day 29 Sep - 23 Oct; last W Winfield 10 Nov.

Wood Thrush: max 12 WH 20 Sep, late for so many.

Am. Robin: max 130 Selkirk Shores SP 26 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 11/day 10 Sep - 5 Oct.

N. Mockingbird: 1 singing Oakwood Cem Syr 8 Oct; 2 Oswego thru; 1 W Winfield 3 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr 1 Sep; max 60 WPd 23 Oct; last DL 22 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: max 215 Kirkland 10 Sep.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: max 2

Kirkland 1 Sep; last DL 11 Sep.

"Brewster's" Warbler: one Kirkland 10 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: relatively common in Sep; max 4 SVB 8 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 SVB 4 Sep, only report.

Nashville Warbler: last Kirkland 11 Nov, late.

N. Parula: max 3 Kirkland 3 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: last W Monroe 18 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 6 DL 11 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: max 8 Kirkland 21 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: 3 reports of 4 individuals.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 5 SVB 19 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: peak flight 3-12 Oct; max 57 Kirkland 9 Oct; last Kirkland 19 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 40 DL 11 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 5 Kirkland 7 Sep.

Pine Warbler: last SVB 23 Sep.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: 1 Hastings 7 Sep (BP).

Palm Warbler: arr T Western 7 Sep; max 3 DL 29 Sep; last 2 UM 3 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 5 SVB 8 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 4 SVB 8 Sep and 4 DL 11 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 Kirkland 1 Sep.

Am. Redstart: max 9 Kirkland 10 Sep.

Ovenbird: 1 Hastings 14 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: last W Monroe 24 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 11 WPd 2 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: 2 Pompey 20 Sep; 3 WH 20 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 2/day 1-13 Sep.

Canada Warbler: 3 singles to 3 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 New Hartford 5 Sep and 3 WH 20 Sep.

E. Towhee: max 8 Hastings 25 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 4 Oct DL, early; max 16 CM 25 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 45 Mexico 27 Sep; last 4 W Winfield 20 Oct.

Field Sparrow: max 8 Hastings 25 Sep; last W Monroe 17 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: 4 reports of 5 birds; last Bvle 1 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: max 8 at 3 sites 19 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: arr New Hartford 12 Oct; max 6 Fulton 17 Oct; last Kirkland 9 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 35 W Monroe 24 Sep.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr W Winfield 4 Sep; max 3 W Monroe 24 Sep; last Bvle & New Hartford 17 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 12 SVB 29 Sep; last 2 WPd 25 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: max 30-35 many sites 29 Sep - 18 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 SPd 13 Sep; max 28 W Monroe 29 Sep; last Paris 28 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 25 Skaneateles 18 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: 1 FH 14 Nov, only report.

Snow Bunting: arr 1 L Julia 2 Oct; max 100-350 per day DL and LOL 30 Oct - 15 Nov; 20 Rock Dam Road HERK 20 Oct, where unusual.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 3
Kirkland 1 Sep, few reports.
Indigo Bunting: max 3 Kirkland 16 Sep;
last DL 25 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1700
Pulaski 26 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: last 3 WPd 25 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr DL 11 Sep; max 95
CM 30 Sep; last Paris 11 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 11,200 W Monroe 18
Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: last and max

24 Kirkland 16 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: last and max 4
Kirkland 3 Sep.
Purple Finch: mostly 1-3 per day after
mid Oct.
Red Crossbill: small numbers Adks.
Pine Siskin: 3 Kirkland 9 Oct, only
report.
Am. Goldfinch: max 80 Pompey 18 Sep.

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REGION 6 - ST.LAWRENCE

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The fall of 1998 was very unusual in that it could not decide what type of a fall it was going to be. On 2 September about a half an inch of rain fell in Jefferson County followed by rain most of the next day. Wind gusts were up to 40 mph on the 6th of Septmeber, with a high of 66°F. On 8 September, lake effect rain occurred off and on, with hail in the early evening hours. On 15 September 0.35 inches of rain fell at Watertown. On 17 September the temperature at Watertown was 38°F, and at Henderson 36°F. Was fall on the way finally? No it was not! It turned hot and muggy, with a low of 72° at 3 am and a high of 78° on 21 September. The following day was cooled to a low of 51° by a NE wind, with a cold front moving through. On 25 September it was in the 70° range again, and a high of 72° was recorded at 5 am on the 27th. Temperatures then dropped to a low of 39° on the 28th of the month.

October started out with frost in St. Lawrence County on the 2nd. October 3rd saw frost at many locations in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Much of early October was cool and overcast, and then on 18 October it hit a high of 80°F at Watertown. The rest of October was cool and rainy, still the month was the warmest October on record. The first snowflakes fell on 2 November. The 6th saw snow flurries, but no snow, lasted through the day. On 9 November, Watertown's low temperature was 27°, and on the 11th rain, snow, and sleet fell all day with strong 50 mph

winds. St. Lawrence County, Town of Edwards saw 3.5 inches of snow on 16 November, with a low temp of 15° on the evening of the 17th. On 21 November much of southern portions of Tug Hill received about 8 inches of snow. Was winter getting started? Again, No! The high for 23 November was a sunny 61°, and on 30 Nov it was 65° at Watertown. November was the driest month in 44 years, and water bodies had no indication of ice formation.

Lake Ontario water levels were dropping to lows not seen in some years, and many rivers and streams also were at much lower levels than normal for the time of year. The fact that water bodies stayed open so long forebode the possibility of extreme lake effect snowstorms later on in the winter months ahead. A warm, wide-open Lake Ontario acts as a heat pump to pickup moisture from the Lake and to create heavy snowfalls in a short period of time off the eastern end of the lake. This is a condition many of us must live with during normal winters, but the potential for extreme snowfalls is very probable this year.

Winter visitants were slow to show up and hangers-on from the summer months were not as prevalent as one would expect. In fact many species were gone before the fall reporting period started. The openness of the water bodies made locating species such as loons and waterfowl in numbers difficult, as they were not concentrated as they normally would be following freeze up. There was no indications of any winter finches anywhere in the Region. Trips to Tug Hill and Adirondack areas were fruitless for finches.

Highlights for the season were: two *hutchinsii* race Canada Geese on the St. Lawrence River at Clayton, high numbers of Tundra Swans, high numbers of Gadwall and Am. Wigeon at Perch River WMA, a fair number of scaup in a raft in Black River Bay, good numbers of Ruddy Duck at Perch Lake, two coveys of Gray Partridge, high numbers of Am. Coot, an Am. Golden-Plover at El Dorado, a record late Yellow-billed Cuckoo, unbelievable numbers of crows, a record late Tree Swallow at Point Peninsula on 28 November, E. Bluebirds in very high numbers, and high numbers of Am. Pipits.

Negatives include: low numbers of all the ducks except Mallards, poor shorebird numbers even with so much exposed shore area, no Snowy Owls, low numbers of Horned Larks, low numbers of kinglets, and no winter finches.

Rarities for the period included **Sabine's Gull** in Massena, a **Black-Backed Woodpecker** in Cape Vincent, **White-Eyed Vireo** near Massena and a **Townsend's Solitaire** in Cape Vincent.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CV - Cape Vincent, FD - Fort Drum, LWMA - Lakeview WMA, LiWMA - Littlejohn WMA in JEFF, Pt Pen - Point Peninsula, PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, SLR - St. Lawrence River, T - Town or Township of, WH - Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS - DUCKS

Com. Loon: 6 Pt Pen 22 Oct; 1 Black River Bay 1 Nov; 2 Sawyer's Bay 13 Nov; 12 Pt Pen 28 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 6 LWMA 7 Oct.

Horned Grebe: 5 Pt Pen 22 Oct; 3 Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 26 Oct; 17 Sawyer's Bay 13 Nov; 10 Pt Pen 28 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 WHWMA 10 Sep; 2 Robert Moses SP 31 Oct (TD); 1 Pt Pen 1 Nov; 1 Pt Pen 12 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Black River Bay 13 Nov.

Am. Bittern: 1 dead on road T Fine STLA 20 Sept (PO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 3 Beaver Meadows Marsh, Watertown 13 Sept.

Turkey Vulture: 1 Cranberry L 2 Oct; 112 LWMA 9 Oct; 22 Pt Pen 22 Oct; 1 LEWI 16 Nov; 1 T Clayton JEFF 27 Nov.

Snow Goose: 37 imm LWMA 9 Oct; 14 Woodville 19 Nov.

Canada Goose: 1 hutchinsii race on SLR Washington Is T Clayton 12 Nov (NL); 2 same on 13 Nov (LC,BH), photo.

Brant: 50 FD 21 Oct; 280 SLR Holmes Pt T Morristown STLA 25 Oct (RL).

Trumpeter Swan: 8 (2 ad, 6 imm) PRWMA 13 Nov.

Tundra Swan: 15 Black River Bay, Dexter Marsh WMA 1 Nov; 35 Pt Pen 12 Nov; 12 Three Mile Pt 22 Nov; 200+ Pt Pen 22 Nov; 14 WHWMA 23 Nov (Lee Harper fide PO); 8 Wilson Hill 29 Nov (SC).

Wood Duck: 50 Grass River Massena 10 Nov.

Gadwall: 200+ PRWMA 4 Nov; 10 SLR Clayton 15 Nov.

Am Wigeon: 400+ PRWMA 4 Nov; 220 PRWMA 6 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: more common than the previous two years.

Mallard: showing up in numbers near end of period.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 Pt Salubrious 5 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 6 PRWMA 6 Nov; 2 SLR near Clayton 13 Nov.

N. Pintail: 30 PRWMA 6 Nov; 2 Pt Pen 28 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: 1 Louisville STLA 10 Sep.

Canvasback: 2 Chaumont 15 Nov.
Redhead: 12 WHWMA 10 Sep; 18 WHWMA 2 Oct; 1 male PRWMA 6 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: 40 WHWMA 10 Sep.
Greater Scaup: 7 El Dorado 7 Oct; 50 Black River Bay 1 Nov; 2000+ Black River Bay 13 Nov (LC&BH).
White-winged Scoter: 4 Pt Pen 31 Oct.
Oldsquaw: 4 Pt Pen 28 Nov.
Bufflehead: 1 Pt Pen 31 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: numbers down from last year.
Hooded Merganser: 35 FD 9 Sep; 14 Kelsey Crk Watertown 27 Oct; 15 PRWMA 16 Nov; 50 Pt Pen 22 Nov.
Com. Merganser: 8 El Dorado 5 Oct; 20 Pt Pen 22 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Robert Moses SP 31 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: 5 PRWMA 6 Nov; max 12 Perch L PRWMA 10 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 4 LWMA 16 Sep.
Bald Eagle: 1 imm T Watson LEWI 15 Sep; 1 ad LWMA 9 Oct; 2 ad El Dorado 23 Oct; 1 imm Theresa 6 Nov.
N. Harrier: 11 imm Montario Pt LWMA 16 Sep; 10 Pt Pen 22 Nov; 13 around backroads T CV 23 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 29 Montario Pt LWMA 16 Sep; 3 FD 18 Sep; 62 LWMA 9 Oct; 1 killed at window while patrolling feeder Kelsey Crk 19 Nov (RB).
Cooper's Hawk: 1 LWMA 16 Sep; 13 LWMA 9 Oct; 1 T CV 12 Nov.
N. Goshawk: 1 T Pitcairn STLA 5 Oct; 1 imm LWMA 9 Oct; 1 imm Pt Salubrious 10 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Robert Moses SP Massena 31 Oct (TD).
Broad-winged Hawk: 1 FD 1 Sep; 2

LWMA 16 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: 30 imm Montario Pt LWMA 16 Sep; 70 LWMA 9 Oct; 210 Wescott Beach SP 26 Oct; 54 (including 1 imm rufous morph on Fox Crk Rd) on trip from Dexter to CV 28 Nov (GS&TC).
Rough-legged Hawk: 5 Wescott Beach SP 26 Oct; 18 Pt Pen 22 Nov; 14 Favret Rd to McKeever Rd T CV 22 Nov; 51 on trip from Dexter to Cape Vincent 28 Nov (GS&TC).
Golden Eagle: 1 sub ad Wescott Beach SP 26 Oct (GS); 1 NY Route 177 New Boston LEWI 8 Nov (GS).
Am Kestrel: 13 Montario Pt LWMA 16 Sep; 2 LWMA 9 Oct; 4 Pt Pen 22 Nov; 2 T CV 23 Nov.
Merlin: 1 FD 18 Sep (MS); 1 Potsdam 20 Sep (SC); 1 Henderson Boat Launch on Stony Crk 30 Sep.
Gray Partridge: 10 T CV 16 Sep (GS); 10 T CV (different location) 29 Oct.
Ruffed Grouse: high numbers in Adirondacks, many road kills and at least 8 killed by raptors in various Forest Preserve Areas (PO); high numbers on Tug Hill; lower numbers on Lake Plain.
Wild Turkey: 26 FD 21 Oct; seen at Aldrich, Cranberry L and Tooley Pd Rd STLA deep in the Adirondacks.
Am. Coot: max 300 PRWMA 4 Nov; 256 PRWMA 6 Nov; 5 SLR CV 13 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: 7 Pt Pen 12 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: 1 El Dorado Shores 14 Sep.
Killdeer: 60+ Adams 7 Oct; 70+ Woodville 7 Oct; 2 SLR Washington I T Clayton 12 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: 4 WHWMA 2 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 Pt Pen 12 Nov.
Upland Sandpiper: 1 FD 4 Sept.
Dunlin: 15 Coles Creek SP 15 Nov.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Watertown 21 Sep.

Com. Snipe: 5 PRWMA 13 Sept; 1

Henderson vicinity 22 Nov.

Am. Woodcock; 1 Chaumont Barrens 1 Sep.

Bonaparte's Gull: 100 Moses Saunders Power Dam STLA 10 Sep; 32 Pt Pen 1 Nov; 17 Pt Pen 12 Nov; 3 CV breakwall 28 Nov;

Ring-billed Gull: more on the Lake Plain due to openness of Lake Ontario waters.

Great Black-backed Gull: 50 Moses Saunders Power Dam 10 Sep; 12 break-wall CV SLR 28 Nov.

SABINE'S GULL: 1 imm Moses Saunders Power Dam, Hawkins Pt 9 & 10 Sep (JVR,MB,BB) - the third record for this location.

Com. Tern: 100 Moses Saunders Power Dam 10 Sep.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 found recently dead Valley Rd T CV 4 Oct (MW), a late date, hard enough to find them in the summer months in this Region.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Patterson Rd T Louisville 1 Sep; 1 calling T Fine STLA 28 Sep.

Snowy Owl: 1 Hell Street T CV 28 Nov (GS), only report.

Barred Owl: 1 Route 56 Massena 16 Sep.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Kelsey Crk Watertown 11 Sept; 1 Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 12 Oct; 1 Sawyer's Bay 18 Oct (GM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 Henderson 26 Sep; 1 FD 6 Oct (Maria Mogg).

Belted Kingfisher: last at beaver flow Cranberry L Wild Forest STLA 6 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 imm Kelsey Crk feeder Watertown 29 Nov thru (RB).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 LWMA 16 Sep; 1 Henderson 28 Sep; 1 Kelsey Crk feeder 29 Sept thru; 1 CV feeder mid Oct thru.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 imm Kelsey Crk 14 Sept; 1 imm Henderson 16 Sep; 1 CV 4 Oct.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: 1 male CV 3 Oct (MW,NYSARC), way out of range.

N. Flicker: 1 Horace Forward Truck Trail LEWI 18 Nov.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Inmann Gulf, Tug Hill SF LEWI, 10 Sep; 1 Potsdam village 7 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: 1 Massena 17 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: 1 T Louisville STLA 1 Sep.

E. Phoebe: 1 T Louisville 11 Sep.

N. Shrike: 1 imm T CV 29 Oct; 1 ad Perch L PRWMA 25 Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 Massena 12 Oct (MB), previous records from this area.

Blue-headed Vireo: 1 Massena 16 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: 2 Massena 11 Sep; 1 singing Henderson 14 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Massena 17 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: 1 FD 17 Sept; 1 Massena 25 Sep.

Gray Jay: 8 being fed at hunting camps near Aldrich T Fine STLA thru Oct & Nov (PO).

Blue Jay: birds moving thru since beginning of period; 22 over Watertown 14 Sep; 35+ Watertown 22 Sept.

Am. Crow: 1000+ near Watertown at roost area almost daily after early Sep; many more on the Lake Plain than normal (LC).

Com. Raven: 1 Inman Gulf, Tug Hill SF LEWI 10 Sep; 2 T Ellisburg I-81 2 Oct; 7 FD 5 Oct; 5 DANC Landfill NY Rt 177 JEFF 9 Oct; 1 Evans Mills 2 Nov; 2 Mason Rd T CV 22 Nov, seen at this same location last year at about the same time.

Horned Lark: 10 CV 8 Nov, hard to find.

Tree Swallow: 100+ T Hounsfield 21 Sep; 10 Henderson 3 Oct; 60 Philadelphia 7 Oct; 14 CV 8 Nov; 1 Pt Pen 28 Nov (GS,TC), record late.

Barn Swallow: 2 FD 14 Sept (MS)

Tufted Titmouse: 2 Massena 15 Nov (MB), only report.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 Henderson 7 Sep; 1 Watertown 11 Sep; 6 Inlet STLA 2 Oct, numbers down.

House Wren: 1 Henderson 7 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 Watertown 13 Sep; large numbers thru Henderson all day 3 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Watertown 13 Sep; not seen in normal numbers.

E. Bluebird: 3 Henderson 8 Sep; 6 Watertown Center 23 Sep; 16 Indian River Lakes area 27 Sep; 6 males Diamond Rd Tug Hill 6 Nov; 175 occurrences of birds near Harrisville T Pitcairn STLA first week of Oct at bluebird trail nesting box location (Cathy Luther).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: 1 CV village in top of tree singing very sweetly 5 Nov (MW,NYSARC), a Regional first if accepted by NYSARC.

Veery: 1 Massena 1 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: 5 Inlet STLA 2 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: 4 CV 4 Oct.

Am Robin: 30+ Inlet STLA 2 Oct; moving thru Henderson all day 24 Oct; 13 Barnes Corners, Tug Hill LEWI 6 Nov.

Gray Catbird: 1 FD 22 Sep; 1 Kelsey Crk Watertown 11 Oct.

N. Mockingbird: 1 Rt 37 Massena 10 Sep (MB); 1 Pt Pen 28 Nov (LC,BH).

European Starling: more on the Lake Plain than normal.

Am. Pipit: 8 El Dorado 10 Sep; 110 T CV 16 Sep; 200+ Woodville 7 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: 34 FD 22 Sep; 4 Henderson 26 Sep; max 100+ Sawyer's Bay 22 Oct (GPM).

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: 2 T Louisville STLA 18 Sep.

Nashville Warbler: 1 Massena 12 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: 2 T Louisville STLA 1 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 Massena 16 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: 1 T Louisville STLA 11 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 FD 17 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: moving thru Henderson in numbers 30 Sep; 2 Massena 2 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 LiWMA 8 Sep; 3 FD 17 Sep; 2 Henderson 30 Sep.

Pine Warbler: 1 LiWMA 8 Sep.

Palm Warbler: 2 FD 2 Oct; last FD 5 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 T Louisville 19 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 Potsdam 10 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: 2 FD 17 Sep.

Ovenbird: 1 FD 17 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: 1 Massena 17 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: 1 Kelsey Crk Watertown 14 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 1 female Massena 16 Sep.

E. Towhee: 3 Chaumont Barrens 1 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: first Pt Pen 27 Oct;

first Henderson 8 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: 8 FD 2 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: 4 FD 2 Oct; 1 FD 5 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: 20 FD 8 Sep; 1 FD 6 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: 1 Kelsey Crk feeder 22 Oct; 2 Massena 22 Oct.

Song Sparrow: 1 Barnes Corners, Tug Hill, LEWI 6 Nov

Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 Pt Salubrious 5 Oct (GS).

Swamp Sparrow: 3 FD 6 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 FD 6 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: moving in numbers thru Henderson 10 Oct; 35 Henderson 2 Nov.

Snow Bunting: 1 Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 22 Oct; 25 SBSP 24 Oct; 127 T CV 29 Oct.

N. Cardinal: numbers in Henderson and Lake Plain were down.

Bobolink: 1 FD 8 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: 2 Pt Pen 28 Nov

(GS,TC).

E. Meadowlark: 5 FD 5 Oct; 9 Pt Pen 27 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 1 Wanakena 2 Oct; 300 Pt Pen 3 Oct; 300-400 CV 4 Oct; 125 Theresa 6 Nov.

Com. Grackle: 200 Pt Pen 3 Oct; 2 FD 5 Oct; 2000+ thru Henderson in one flock 27 Oct; 2 Barnes Corners Tug Hill LEWI 6 Nov; 100 Massena 21 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers were down from a few years ago.

Baltimore Oriole: 1 Massena 1 Sep.

Purple Finch: 3 Henderson 1 Nov; low numbers.

House Finch: 30 Henderson 2 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: numbers in Henderson increasing thru.

Evening Grosbeak: 6 Massena 20 Oct, only report.

House Sparrow: numbers at Henderson were down, as well as at many locations in farm country, JEFF.

REGION 7 ADIRONDACKCHAMPLAIN

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Although changeable, the fall was largely warm and windy. Lake Champlain stood at 96.69 ft and a tepid 70°F on 4 September, while Plattsburgh reached a sultry 87° on 6 September. Following snow in the Ausable Valley on 8 September and 1.06 inches of rain at Malone the next day, temperatures returned to 74° on 11 September and 69° with 97% humidity on 13 September. At month's end, Plattsburgh was still a rainy 67°. October was blustery, opening with gusts of 50 mph. Light rains brought us to 47.5 inches annual precipitation by 4 October, within 3 inches of the old record. Plattsburgh was 73° on 18 October. Gusts

reached 30 mph on the 20th, and Whiteface Mountain had 5" of snow by 22 October. The rest of the month was mild, closing with annual precipitation at 49.03". November was also windy, with 23 mph winds on 2 November and a gust of 26 mph the next day. Thermometers reached daily highs in the 40°-50° range throughout the month, while winds reached 55 mph on Veterans Day, bringing down trees. The ground was snow covered across much of the Region by 17 November, but reappeared soon thereafter. The season closed with Malone 61° and Inlet 64° on 30 November, accompanied by 26 mph gusts. Yearly precipitation had reached 50.05", just a few raindrops shy of the 1983 record of 50.16". Gary Lee commented, "I only saw about 10 clear days in my diary for the period, as fronts moved by so fast."

If autumn provides any indication, a fairly birdless winter lies ahead. Only 154 species were reported this fall, far short of the record 192 found in 1996, or even last fall's relatively low 176. Snow Geese put in appearances at several locales in Essex and Franklin counties, in addition to their usual Clinton County stopover near Point au Roche, with several thousand at Chateaugay in late November. Most northern waterfowl arrivals were later than last year. A total of 21 shorebird species was reported, a respectable showing in light of near record annual rainfall and high lake levels. Winter passerine arrivals included Northern Shrike at Hogansburg 22 October, Bohemian Waxwings at Raquette Lake 30 November, American Tree Sparrows at Westport 24 October, and Snow Buntings at Moose River Plains 18 October. The only abundant winter finches were American Goldfinches, and even those were sparse between the departure of nesting birds in mid-September and the arrival of wintering flocks in late November. There were no Pine Grosbeaks or redpolls.

Birders visiting the Chazy Riverlands, the remarkable birding area described by Mitchell and Krueger in *Birds of Clinton County*, Second Edition (1997) and by Wells in *Important Bird Areas in New York State* (1998), surely had no complaints, however. Here they saw the first Regional **Northern Gannet**. Here, too, was a **Greater White-fronted Goose**, the first Regional **Cinnamon Teal** and **American Avocet**, a **Whimbrel**, and a **Hudsonian Godwit**, to name but a few of the greater rarities. Finds like a Merlin, Peregrine Falcons, and Western, White-rumped, and Stilt sandpipers at the same productive site seem to pale by comparison.

There were good finds elsewhere, too. Bill Krueger, Charlie Mitchell, and later Tom Dudones, had a rare blue morph Ross's Goose at Point au Roche, while Susan Turner reported an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird in Keene.

While local observers concentrated on the Champlain lakeshore, the few visiting birders focused on Adirondack boreal habitats. This may have enriched the seasonal list at the expense of more mundane birds, notably flycatchers, vireos, wrens, warblers, and sparrows (no mention of Song Sparrow during the three months!). So the "embarrassment of riches," as Bill Krueger so aptly phrased it, may have been responsible in part for the low species total of 154.

We're also delighted to pass along Forest Ranger Gary Lee's report that the Ferd's Bog boardwalk has finally been installed by the NYS DEC. Ferd LaFrance would be pleased, especially by the Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee already seen from the new, easier access to the bog that carries his name.

Finally, we note with great sorrow the passing of the foremost observer of the Adirondack-Champlain Region and one of the great birders of New York State, Geoffrey Carleton of Elizabethtown. Jeff was an original, and he will be missed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP - Ausable Point WMA; BB Bloomingdale Bog; CH Cumberland Head; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FB Ferd's Bog; FBI Four Brothers Islands; KB King's Bay; MRRRA Moose River Recreational Area; PtR Point au Roche SP; TL Tupper Lake; WRS Webb Royce Swamp.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: ads & chick banded Beaver L Aug present 9 Oct(GL).

Horned Grebe: arr CR 17 Aug (GW), 2nd CLIN Aug record.

Red-necked Grebe: max 13 Westport 29 Nov (JP,J&PT).

N. GANNET: 1 imm CR 19 Oct (BK,CM!), first Regional record.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 FBI 12 Sep.

Black-crowned NightHeron: FBI 12 Sep (RM).

Turkey Vulture: max 13 CR 6 Sep (BK,CM,GW), at stillborn calf.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTEDGOOSE: imm, acquiring ad plumage, CR 27 Oct (DH, photo), with 1,500 Canada Geese; orange bare parts suggest Greenland race.

Snow Goose: arr CR 21 Sep; 8,000 PtR 1 Nov; 2500 Westport and 1000 Essex 29 Nov; thousands Chateaugay same day (fide HW); injured bird Blue Mt L all Nov (TW).

ROSS'S GOOSE: ad blue morph PtR 23 Oct (BK,CM) to 5 Nov (TD).

Canada "Richardson's" Goose: PtR 5 Nov (BK).

Brant: arr PtR 12 Oct (J&RH); 1 L Flower 418 Nov (TD).

Mute Swan: Monty Bay 5 Nov (TD), only sighting.

Tundra Swan: 2 ads Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh 20 Oct (BK); same Cumberland Head 25 Oct (PO); last Plattsburgh Bay 29 Nov (BK,CM).

CINNAMON TEAL: CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), first Regional record.
N. Pintail: 3 PtR 1 Nov (TD).

Green-winged Teal: max 6 WRS 22 Nov (TM,SO).

Canvasback: arr 3 KB 25 Nov (J&RH).

Redhead: arr KB 22 Oct (BK).

Lesser Scaup: arr L Alice 19 Sep (TD).

Surf Scoter: arr 8 PtR 14 Oct (BK).

Whitewinged Scoter: arr 6 PtR 1 Nov (TD); max 13 AP 13 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr Plattsburgh 27 Oct (BK).

Oldsquaw: arr 24 Plattsburgh 27 Oct (BK).

Hooded Merganser: 4 L Pleasant & 3 L Algonquin 20 Nov (PK), late in HAMI.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 35 Peru 12 Oct (DF).

Ruddy Duck: arr Ticonderoga 20 Oct (MY); max 3 PtR 1 Nov (TD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 2 CR 6 Sep, one mobbed by 3 Bonaparte's Gulls; summit Mt. Skylight 11 Sep (J&PT).

N. Harrier: 3,800 ft on Ridge Trail to Giant Mt 23 Oct (J&PT).

Cooper's Hawk: summit Mt Skylight 11 Sep (J&PT).

Red-tailed Hawk: 2 NunDaGaO Ridge 5 Sep (J&PT); max 25 over Frederica Mt, near L Lila, 23 Oct (WF).

Rough-legged Hawk: arr CLIN 12 Oct (J&RH)

Am. Kestrel: max 11 PAFB 10 Sep.

Merlin: CR 20 Sep (BK,CM); Valcour 29 Sep (HK).

Peregrine Falcon: CR 20 Sep; ad male CR 26 Sep; Plattsburgh 12 Nov.

GYRFALCON: dark morph arr Plattsburgh 5 Nov (TD).

Wild Turkey: hen with 7 growing yg TL (RB), first young reported there; max 30 Westport lighthouse 12 Sep (DV) and s. Westport 27 Oct (JG).

Am. Coot: Plattsburgh 12 Nov (HK);

Westport 22 Nov thru (TM,SO).

Black-bellied Plover: CR to 12 Nov (BK,CM), late; max 4 CR 8 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 48 CR 5 Oct (GW), present CR to 25 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 7 CR 8 Sep; CR 19 Oct.

Killdeer: 3 TL 30 Oct (CD), late.

AM. AVOCET: CR 1421 Sep (BK,CM!).

Greater Yellowlegs: CH 4 Nov (BK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: KB 21 Sep (BK,CM).

WHIMBREL: CR 68 Sep (BK,CM,GW), 3rd CLIN record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: CR 6 Sep 22 Oct (BK, JM, CM), rare here.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: TL 30 Sep (CD), scarce in interior.

Western Sandpiper: CR 26 Oct (BK,CM,GW), well seen in excellent light.

Least Sandpiper: max 22 CR 5 Sep (BK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Cr 5 Sep 18 Oct; max 2 CR 6 Sep (BK,CM,GW).

Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 5 Sep 25 Oct; max 11 CR 6 Sep (BK,CM,GW).

Dunlin: max 20 CR 5 Nov (BK,CM).

Stilt Sandpiper: max 2 CR 5 Sep (BK,CM,GW); CR 14 Sep (BK,CM), late CLIN by 8 days.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 165 Westport 24 Oct (JP,J&PT).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 38 TL 18 Oct (CD), high for interior Adks.

Black-backed Woodpecker: male NunDaGaO Ridge 5 Sep; BB; FB.

Pileated Woodpecker: banded Elizabethtown 22 Oct (JP).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr Hogansburg 25 Oct (HW);

subsequent sightings Elizabethtown, MRRA, Keene, Riley Bk.

Gray Jay: Brown's Tract Pds and FB, usual sites.

Com. Raven: 1 L Colden has learned to scrounge after black bear attacks campers' food, little fear of humans (J&PT).

Horned Lark: arr MRRA 5 Nov (GL).

Boreal Chickadee: feeding yg Opalescent R 11 Sep (J&PT), late for dependent young; also FB, Giant Mt, MRRA, South L.

Am. Pipit: arr Stetson Rd, CLIN, 14 Sep (BK,CM), early; 3 Paul Smiths 18 Sep (TM), also early; max 8 TL 2 Nov (TD).

Bohemian Waxwing: arr 50 Racquette L 30 Nov (GL), quite rare in HAMI.

WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler: banded Elizabethtown 23 Oct (JP), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: last banded Elizabethtown 18 Oct.

Pine Warbler: Paul Smiths & Ray Brook 22 Sep; "doing well in white pines Paul Smiths" (TM).

"Western" Palm Warbler: SL 12 & 20 Sep (TD); unspecified race AP 21 Sep (J&RH).

"Yellow" Palm Warbler: SL 12 Oct (TD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 6 Westport 24 Oct (JP,J&PT).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Arena Marsh, SL, 12 Sep (TD), an excellent find, especially in fall.

Field Sparrow: Trudeau Rd 11 Oct (TD), last.

Fox Sparrow: SL, PtR, Upper Jay, between 17 Oct 5 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr summit Mt Skylight (4,926 ft) 12 Sep (J&PT), record early ESSE.

Snow Bunting: arr MRRA 18 Oct (GL); later PtR, Banker Rd, Blue Mountain Lake; max 75 Essex 721 Nov.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad male Keene 17 Oct (ST).

Rusty Blackbird: arr max 85 Whallon's Bay Rd 9 Oct (J&PT); SL 12 Oct (TD); last Redford 29 Nov (DF), a good showing.

Purple Finch: Elizabethtown to 2 Sep; Speculator Sep only; Inlet feeder 7 Nov; occasional Keene, extremely scarce after departure of nesting birds.

House Finch: Westport 24 Oct 29 Nov, only report.

Red Crossbill: HAMI late in season, only report.

White-winged Crossbill: some HAMI early in season, only report.

Pine Siskin: 4 South L outlet 18 Sep (BL);

Elizabethtown 30 Nov (JP), only reports, **Am. Goldfinch:** Speculator Sep only; Elizabethtown to mid Sep and from mid Nov; intro.

Evening Grosbeak: few HAMI (GL); 2 FB 3 Oct (BL); elsewhere, not even overhead transients were reported after the departure of nesting birds in summer.

ADDENDA

ROSS'S GOOSE: Point au Roche 25 Mar 1998 (DH!).

Canada "Richardson's" (*hutchinsii*)

Goose: Point au Roche 25 Mar 1998 and a dark *minima* type seen there the following day, 26 Mar (DH, photo!).

"Yellow" Palm Warbler: Madawaska 13 Jun 1998 (SO), along abandoned RR grade near Madawaska Pd, a new possible breeding area.

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 1998, was generally dry and mild. As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 63.2°F, 1.9° above normal, with 60% possible sunshine. October averaged a nearly normal 50.7°, with 44% possible sunshine. November averaged a nearly normal 39.9°, with 40% possible sunshine. The near drought conditions experienced in July and August continued in September, with precipitation totalling 1.98", 0.97" below normal. The dry spell ended in October, with 4.14" of rain, 1.31" above normal. November became dry again, with only 1.65" of precipitation, 1.58" below normal. The first frost occurred on November 3. There was little snow, with no accumulation by the end of November.

As with last fall, reporting was down. With good to excellent wild food crops, birds generally were dispersed, with little feeder activity. Good passerine flights occurred September 9-12. There were numerous reports of a Red-throated Loon on one of the Five River Environmental Education Center ponds during late November. The bird had been placed there by the DEC to recover from injuries received when it accidentally landed in a corn field in southern Albany County. A large flock of Turkey Vultures, probably coming in to a roost was photographed late in the afternoon of October 13 near the Helderbergs by Kirstin Breisch, daughter of DEC biologist Al Breisch. Thanks, Kirstin, for being interested enough, alert enough, and having your camera handy at such a moment. Waterbird trends included high numbers of Snow Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot, as well as good numbers of Black Scoter. There were three separate sightings of small groups of Tundra Swan during November. This species is always unusual in the Region with almost never more than one seen. **Tufted Duck** was reported from Saratoga Lake, also during November. This is only the second documented record for this species in Region 8, the first being in 1991, also on Saratoga Lake. According to a note in *The Kingbird* (42:271), the 1991 sighting was the fourth in the Region. However, since the earlier sightings were never documented in *The Kingbird*, *Feathers*, *Field Notes*, or with NYSARC reports, they essentially retain rumor status. This emphasizes the absolute need to submit notes for evaluation and publication. Hawk migration numbers were down from last year, with uncooperative winds for much of the season. Notable was the number of Golden Eagles, with 14 counted between the September 27 and December 12. An unusually large number of Yellow-rumped Warblers was seen by Ray Perry while canoeing on Featherstonhaugh Lake on September 29. He reported seeing at least 300 of the birds in the first few layers of trees ringing the lake, with others too far in from the water to be counted. In contrast with last year, winter finches were notable by their complete absence.

Once again thanks are due to Bob Kirker for organizing the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch. The hawkwatch was staffed daily from August 18 through December 23, for a total of 128 days, 727 hours, and 3164 hawks. Details on specific numbers are in the statistical section of this report.

One great rarity was noted during the period. A **Pacific Loon** was seen by Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin late in the afternoon of October 17. They were able to observe the bird for over an hour, taking extremely detailed notes, which were included in their report to the NYSARC. If accepted by NYSARC, this will be a first record for the Region. Eaton

mentions one report of a female shot near Troy with no date (*Birds of New York State*, 1910, v.1, p.103). Repeated searching failed to relocate this Regional first. Kudos to Walter and Nancy for an exceptionally fine report.

Other unusual birds included Eurasian Wigeon, Long-billed Dowitcher, Caspian Tern, and Bicknell's Thrush. 207 species were reported. These included 31 species of waterfowl, 14 species of hawks, 5 species of owls, 19 species of shorebirds, and 24 species of warblers.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Alcove Reservoir, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle hawk watch, ALBA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF – Featherstonhaugh State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; FtM – Ft. Miller, WASH; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; ML – Myosotis Lake, ALBA; MR – Mohawk River; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SkW – Skidmore College North Woods, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historic Park, SARA; SPd - Stanton Pond, ALBA; StFl – Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TP – Thacher Park, ALBA; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 Round L 12 Nov (WL); 1
WR 15 Nov (WE); 1 FR 22 Nov (CT).
PACIFIC LOON: 1 TR 17 Oct (WE, NM),
NYSARC.
Com. Loon: only small numbers reported;
max 9 SL 14 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 BCR 17 Oct;
present thru.
Horned Grebe: reported in low numbers
on area
lakes; last 1 Galway L 28 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 8 SL 14 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 80
lower MR Colonie 10 Oct.
Great Blue Heron: max 14 CL 18 Nov.
Great Egret: max 14 VF 11 Sep.
Green Heron: max 4 VF 13 Sep; last 2 VF
24 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 imm
NRRS 10 Sep (RP), only report.
Turkey Vulture: max 90-94 T New
Scotland 13 Oct; last 20 Glens Falls 30
Oct.
Snow Goose: arr 29 Coxsackie 7 Oct;
max 3000
TR 11 Nov (Larry Alden, FM).
Canada Goose: max 2530 TR 17 Oct;
1700 SL 11 Nov; 3000+ Bell's Pd COLU
17 Nov.
Brant: max 200 TP 3 Oct (WE); 50-75
over Windham High Peak GREE 25 Oct
(JG, AV).
Mute Swan: 1 SPd 13 Sep; only report n
of COLU.
Tundra Swan: 5 SL 12 Nov (WL); 14
Cossayuna L 13 Nov; 13 Galway L 28
Nov (JG, TP, AV).
Wood Duck: max 16 BCR 6 Sep; last 6 VF
3 Oct.
Gadwall: max 12 SL 19 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 SL 18 Nov (G./K.
Hanson).
Am. Wigeon: first 19 BCR 6 Sep; present
in low numbers thru.
Am. Black Duck: max 51 TR 17 Oct; 130
SL 14 Nov.
Mallard: max 310 SL 14 Nov; 500 Galway
L 28 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: max 31 NRRS 22 Sep;
last SL 25 Nov.
N. Shoveler: 3 TR 17 Oct; 15 SL 22 Nov,
only reports
N. Pintail: max 17 Niska Isle 1 Nov; last 5
Galway L 28 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: arr 16 VF 7 Sep; max
60 TR 29 Oct; last 24 Galway L 28 Nov.
Canvasback: 2 SL 14, 23 Nov, only report.
Redhead: 15 SL 12 Nov, only report.
Ring-necked Duck: first 40 BCR 6 Sep;
max 720+ BCR 17 Oct.
TUFTED DUCK: 1 SL 14-25 Nov (WE,
WL, mob), NYSARC.
Greater Scaup: 200+ SL 12, 25Nov, only
reports.
Lesser Scaup: max 40 SL 14 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 2 L George 23 Oct; 6 SL 25
Oct, only reports.
White-winged Scoter: 32 SL 14 Nov, only
report.
Black Scoter: max 50 SL 15 Oct.
Oldsquaw: 2 L7 25 Oct; 1 TR 11 Nov; 4
SL 25 Nov; 1 Galway L 28 Nov; only
reports.
Bufflehead: first 1 TR 20 Oct; max 100 SL
23 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: first 7 TR 19 Oct; max
400 SL 12 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 120 TR 29 Oct;
50 AR 15 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 400+ SL 12 Nov
WL; 500+ Nassau L 19 Nov (PC).
Red-breasted Merganser: 5 TR 17 Oct; 1

SL 25 Oct; 3 SL 14 Nov; 5 Nassau L 19 Nov; 1 L7 25 Nov; 2 FtM 30 Nov (JS).
Ruddy Duck: first 8 TR 18 Oct; max 100 TR 11 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 13 reports of singles.
Bald Eagle: 1 ad Papscanee 1 Sep; 2 ad Stuyvesant 3 Sep; 1 imm NB 15, 23, 26, 28 Sep; 1 ad Greenport 19 Sep; 1 unspecified Stuyvesant 5, 20 Oct; 1 imm Stuyvesant 2 Nov; 1 ad Stockport 6 Nov; 1 imm SL 12 Nov; 1 unspecified 17 Nov; 1 ad Stuyvesant 25 Nov.
N. Harrier: max 4 FR 11 Oct; 13 FtE 22 Nov; 18 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 6 TP 3 Oct; 34 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 2 E. Berne 4 Nov; 11 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 Greenport 4 Sep (BC); 1 NB 18 Oct (RG); 1 Niskayuna 29 Nov (RY).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 JL 5 Sep (RY); 1 Grapeville 6 Sep (PC); 1 Grafton L SP 20 Sep (PC); 1 NRP 17 Oct; only reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 4 Glenville 4 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 18 FtE 5 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 FtE 5 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: max 15 FtE 6 Sep; 17 reports of singles.

Merlin: 1 Gallupville 11 Oct (Bbo); 1 Chatham 16 Oct (ADBC); 1 SUNYA 29 Oct (NM).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 ad m *tundrius* TP 3 Oct (WE); 1 TR 11 Nov (L. Alden, FM); 1 Albany 13 Nov (RG); 1 Schenectady 23 Nov (SA); 2 Glens Falls 25 Nov (Bbi).

CAMP PINNACLE HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Total	Peak Flight:	Date Range
Turkey Vulture	219	48 on 17 Oct	19 Aug-8 Nov
Osprey	50	6 on 13 Sep	24 Aug-21 Nov
Bald Eagle	10		19 Aug-4 Dec
Northern Harrier	75	5 on 8 Sep	27 Aug-19 Dec
Sharp-shinned Hawk	282	30 on 11 Oct	19 Aug-5 Dec
Cooper's Hawk	65	6 on 17 Oct	26 Aug-22 Nov
Northern Goshawk	30	3 on 15, 17 Sep	5 Sep-14 Dec
Red-Shouldered Hawk	18		17 Sep-21 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk	1106	326 on 13 Sep	18 Aug-23 Oct
Red-tailed Hawk	1075	99 on 8 Nov	20 Aug-23 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	16	11 on 4 Dec	13 Nov-23 Dec
Golden Eagle	14		27 Sep-12 Dec
American Kestrel	49	5 on 23 Sep	31 Aug-21 Nov
Merlin	10		18 Sep-21 Nov
Peregrine Falcon	6		12 Sep-11 Dec
Totals	3164	392 on 13 Sep	18 Aug-23 Dec

Wild Turkey: continues in moderate numbers throughout.

Virginia Rail: 4 VF 6,7 Sep; 1 NRRS 29 Sep, only reports.

Sora: 1 NRRS 29 Sep, only report.

Com. Moorhen: 6 VF 7 Sep, only report.

Am. Coot: max 150 SL 24 Nov; last 36 Galway L 28 29 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: 1 WR 29 Sep; 1 VF 3 Oct, only reports.

Am. Golden-Plover: 1 SCA 4 Sep (RP); 5 WR 29 Sep (WE); 2 Cohoes 25-26 Oct, 3 still present 3 Oct (WE).

Semipalmated Plover: 10 VF 6 Sep, 1 still present 26 Sep.

Killdeer: max 40 FtM 12 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: 5 VF 6,7 Sep; 4 VF 26 Sep; 3 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 VF 6 Sep; 6 WR 3 Oct; 6 VF 13 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 HP 6 Sep; last 1 VF 13 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: only 4 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: no reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10 VF 6, 13 Sep, 3 Oct, only reports.

Western Sandpiper: 1 VF 6 Sep (FM), only report.

Least Sandpiper: 75 VF 6 Sep, 15 still present 26 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 VF 5 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 juv Ferry Rd 7 Sep (WE).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 VF 7, 13 Sep; 3 NRRS 8 Sep; 6 WR 29 Sep; 15 WR 3 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: 3 VF 6 Sep (WE).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 VF 6, 7 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 juv VF 8-12 Sep, highly vocal (WE, FM).

Com. Snipe: max 6 FtE 25 Sep.

Am. Woodcock: last 1 Amsterdam 12 Nov (TP).

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 SL 14 Nov; 1 TR 17 Oct; only reports.

Ring-billed Gull: max 400 HR Stillwater 30 Nov (SS).

Herring Gull: max 300 NRRS 1 Nov (RY).

Iceland Gull: 1 NRRS 9 Nov (RP); 1 SL 14 Nov (WE).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Cohoes 14 Nov (RG).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 100 NRRS 1 Nov.

Caspian Tern: 1 Greenport 19 Sep (BC).

Com. Tern: 1 SL 12, 14, 15 Nov.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: 4 reports of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 2 VF 7 Sep; 11 reports of singles.

Barred Owl: 2 CPHW 26 Oct; 5 reports of singles.

Short-eared Owl: arr 4 FtE 22 Nov; present T Glen, T Canajoharie, T Minden, all MONT; max 7 Ft.E 29 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 FSF 25 Oct (RP), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: 7 Slingerlands 6 Sep; 2 VF 7 Sep; 1 VF 11 Sep; last 1 BCM 14 Sep.

Chimney Swift: very low numbers reported.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 HP 6 Sep; 3 Schodack Ctr 9, 12 Sep; 20 reports of singles.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 NB 30 Sep; 19 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 HP 6 Sep; 6 reports of singles; last 1 NB 24 Nov.

Downy Woodpecker: max 11 NRP 12 Sep.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 NB 9 Oct.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 NRP 12 Sep; 25 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 HP 6 Sep (WE).
E. Wood-Pewee: max 3 SkW 8Sep; 14 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 HP 6 Sep (WE, NM); 1 NB 16 Sep (RG), only reports.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: 1 banded NB 4 Sep (RG); 1 NRP 12 Sep (WE).
Least Flycatcher: 6 reports of singles.
E. Phoebe: max 14 NRP 12 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 Hillsdale 5 Sep; 1 Greenport 19 Sep, only reports.
N. Shrike: 3 reports: 1 NRP 17 Oct; 1 Berne 15 Nov; 1 Hartford WASH 21 Nov.
Blue-headed Vireo: 6 Sep reports; 5 Oct reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 NRP 12 Sep; 1 VF 13 Sep, only reports.
Warbling Vireo: 2 VF 4, 13 Sep; 2 NRP 12 Sep; 11 reports of singles.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 NRP 12 Sep; 1 FR 25 Sep, only reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 11 HP 6 Sep; 7 NRP 12 Sep; 10 reports of singles.
Am Crow: c.1500 Cohoes 14 Nov (RG).
Fish Crow: 7 over Westmere 11 Sep (NM); 3 reports of singles.
Com. Raven: widely reported throughout Region.
Horned Lark: low numbers reported.
Bank Swallow: 1 NRP 5 Sep, only report.
Barn Swallow: max 12 NRP 5 Sep.
Tufted Titmouse: 1 s. of Ticonderoga 3 Nov (T. Dudones), range expansion.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9 banded JL Sep.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 NRP 12 Sep.
Brown Creeper: 4 WR 29 Nov.

Carolina Wren: 7 reports of singles.
House Wren: max 5 NRP 12 Sep.
Winter Wren: 2 SNHP 29 Sep; 11 reports of singles.
Marsh Wren: max 4 Niska Isle 29 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: first 5 SNHP 18 Sep; max 6 WR 15 Nov; present in good numbers.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: first SkW 11 Sep; max 10 Lawson's L ALBA 11 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 VF 4 Sep; only 2 reports of singles.
E. Bluebird: max 16 NRP 12 Sep; 15 NB 28 Oct; generally good numbers.
Veery: 1 NRP 12 Sep, only report
Bicknell's Thrush: 1 SkW 11 Sep (JG).
Swainson's Thrush: 1 HP 6 Sep; 1 Gallupville 2 Oct; nocturnal migrants heard Schodack Ctr 17 Sep (PC).
Hermit Thrush: 5 banded JL 19 Sep; 3 SNHP 10 Oct; 8 reports of singles; last 1 Papscanee Preserve 28 Oct (MW).
Wood Thrush: 12 reports of singles.
Am. Robin: max 50 NB 2 Nov.
Gray Catbird: max 15 Amsterdam 11 Sep; 12 NRP 12 Sep.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 NB 27 Sep; 9 reports of singles.
Brown Thrasher: 1 Greenport 19 Sep; 1 Amsterdam 4, 7, 9, Oct, only reports.
European Starling: max 3000 Slingerlands 10 Nov.
Am. Pipit: max 156 StFl 26 Sep (BP).
Cedar Waxwing: max 100 Amsterdam 12 Sep; 50 TP 3 Oct.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: 1 Gallupville 23 Sep, only report.

Nashville Warbler: 10 reports of singles.
N. Parula: 7 reports of singles.

Yellow Warbler: 1 HP 6 Sep, only report.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 NP 6 Sep; 2 NRP 12 Sep; 3 reports of singles.

Magnolia Warbler: max 5 Indian Kill 9 Sep; 4

NRP 12 Sep; 20 reports of singles.

Cape May Warbler: no reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 TP 7 Sep; 3 SkW 11 Sep; only 3 reports of singles.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 300+ FSF 29 Sep (RP).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 HP 6 Sep; 3 SNHP 10 Sep; 5 SkW 11 Sep; 2 Gansevoort 17 Sep; 22 reports of singles.

Blackburnian Warbler: 3 VF 13 Sep; 6 reports of singles.

Pine Warbler: 3 reports of singles; last 1 Austerlitz 26 Sep.

Prairie Warbler: 1 HP 6 Sep, only report.

Palm Warbler: 3 HP 6 Sep; 5 Gansevoort 12 Sep; 2 TP 3 Oct; 2 NRP 17 Oct; 7 reports of singles.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 6 reports of singles.

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 SNHP 10 Sep; 3 Gansevoort 11 Sep; 8 reports of singles.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 2 NRP 12 Sep; 3 reports of singles.

Am. Redstart: 2 Gansevoort 11 Sep; 2 SkW 11, 13 Sep; 3 reports of singles.

Ovenbird: 1 singing SkW 1 Sep; 1 Austerlitz 4 Sep; 1 JL 4 Sep; 1 NB 15, 16 Sep; only reports.

Mourning Warbler: 2 SNHP 2 Sep; 4 reports of singles.

Wilson's Warbler: 3 HP 6 Sep; 5 reports of singles.

Canada Warbler: 1 HP 6 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 SNHP 2 Sep; 2

Gansevoort 7 Sep; 2 NRP 12 Sep; 5 reports of singles.

E. Towhee: max 6 SNHP 2 Sep; 6 reports of singles.

Am. Tree-Sparrow: arr 1 Austerlitz 24 Sep (ADBC), early.

Chipping Sparrow: max 15 NB 21 Sep; last 1 Austerlitz 28 Oct.

Field Sparrow: max 8 NRP 12 Sep; last 1 NB 14 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: last 1 Stuyvesant 25 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: 2 CPHW 11 Oct; 2 Lawson's L ALBA 11 Oct; 2 VF 31 Oct; only 4 reports of singles; numbers down.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 seen, several singing VF 24 Sep (WL); 8 reports of singles.

Swamp Sparrow: last 1 VF 31 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 NRP 12 Sep; max 10 SNHP 18 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 Hillsdale 27 Sep; max 5 NRP 17 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: abundant in migration Schenectady; 23 banded 30-31 Oct, 36 banded Nov (RY).

Lapland Longspur: 1 SL 12 Nov (WL), only report.

Snow Bunting: arr 1 Helderbergs 22 Oct; 7 BCR 25 Oct; 40 SL 4 Nov (CL); only 3 reports of singles.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 2 NRP 12 Sep; 2 VF 13 Sep; 7 reports of singles.

Indigo Bunting: 1 HP 6 Sep; 2 Papscaanee 18 Sep; 1 NB 19 Sep; 8 Gansevoort 20 Sep; 3 Gansevoort 28 Sep.

Bobolink: 2 HP 6 Sep; 4 Amsterdam 10 Sep (TP); last 1 Harlemville COLU 13 Oct (JS).

Red-winged Blackbird: max c.1000 WR 29 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: 4 StFl 11 Oct; 1 Stuyvesant 25 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 1Guilderland 4 Oct; max 44 BCM 11 Oct; 100 VF 24 Oct; last 1 WR 12 Nov.Com. Grackle: max 1000 WR 29 Sep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1500 SUNYA 8 Oct. **Baltimore Oriole:** 1 Gansevoort 1 Sep; 1 Amsterdam 11 Sep, only reports.**Purple Finch:** reported in low num-

bers JL; max 7 CPHW 18 Sep (PC).

House Finch: very low numbers reported.

Pine Siskin: no reports.

Am. Goldfinch: max 74 WR 29 Nov.

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REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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The fall 1998 season continued very much like the past summer, quite dry with average temperatures. No unusual weather occurred. Likewise, there was no great fallout of migrants and only one notable rarity.

A **Franklin's Gull** was found at Croton Point Park on 25 November (LB). This is Westchester's first record. This was Region 9's only report, despite numerous reports of this bird from the East Coast this fall.

No huge push of Broad-winged Hawks was noted at the area hawk-watches this fall. Mount Peter did record over five thousand on 17 September. Otherwise, there were few surprises. Northern Goshawks were above average, with seven for the season, and falcon numbers were below average, most notably American Kestrel. The watch did count sixty-eight Black Vultures between 1 October and 12 November. A part-time hawkwatch at Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers recorded a surprising twenty Bald Eagles for the season.

There were a couple of unexpectedly early migrants. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported from Rockland County on 19 September. The next day an American Pipit was reported from Croton Point Park. Croton Point continues to be the place to be to view Sora in migration, six were noted 20 September and five on 29 September.

An albino Cedar Waxwing at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 25 October made for an interesting sighting.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present at Marshlands Conservancy from the beginning of September until they departed just

after 21 October. The first Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows of the *nelsoni* or *alterus* form arrived at the marsh on 13 September and continued through October when their numbers diminished. They were replaced on 7 November by four of the *subvirgatus* subspecies. This "perhaps provides a clue as to the timing sequence of migration of the inland and coastal forms of Nelson's" (NYCRBA)

Other highlights included: jaeger, sp; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Loggerhead Shrike; Prothonotary Warbler; Connecticut Warbler; and Dickcissel.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, GA-Galeville Airport, HM-Hook Mountain, JBNHS-John Burroughs Natural History Society, KP-Kakiat Park, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, MC-Marshlands Conservancy, NYCRBA-New York City Area Rare Bird Alert PP-Piermont Pier, RNC-Rye Nature Center, RTWBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 PP 1 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 EGR 26Nov.

N. Gannet: 50 Milton Point, Rye 26 Nov.

Little Blue Heron: 1 EGR 16 Sep.

Tricolored Heron: 1 MC 12-19

Sep(LHVBL).

Black Vulture: roost continues in Walkill,

ULST(LHVBL); 5 Doodletown 10 Oct; 2

George's Island Co. Park 30 Oct; 1

ORAN 31 Oct; 25 Galeville 6 Nov; 1

Ward Pound Ridge 7 Nov; 1 Lewisboro
17 Nov.

Snow Goose: 59 Round Pond, DUTC 21
Oct(RTWBC); 1 Thompson's Pond 31
Oct.

Brant: 1 PP 1-23 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: 1 Wappinger Lake.

Ring-necked Duck: 200 Abel's Pond
DUTC 7-31 Oct (RTWBC)

Lesser Scaup: arrived PP 1 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: few EGR 11 Oct;
 few EGR 25 Oct (LHVBL)
Black Scoter: few EGR 25 Oct (LHVBL).
Oldsquaw: few EGR 3 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: 500 PP 24 Oct-1 Nov

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: good numbers reported at area hawkwatches.
N. Goshawk: 1 MC 16 Nov (LHVBL).
Broad-winged Hawk: 3108 HM 13 Sep;
 1444 Butler 13 Sep; 5342 Mt. Peter 17
 Sep(JC); last 1 Mt Peter 28 Oct; 1 Lenoir
 28 Oct, late.
Rough-legged Hawk: 1, light phase
 Butler 23 Sep (LHVBL).
Golden Eagle: 6 HM 24-25 Oct (LHVBL).
Am. Kestrel: much below average at Mt
 Peter Hawkwatch.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 Tarrytown Reservoir
 11 Nov.
Ruffed Grouse: 1 Brinton Brook 18 Oct.
Virginia Rail: 1 CPP 29 Sep.
Sora: 1 MC 16 Sep; 6 CPP 20 Sep (LB); 5
 CPP 29 Sep (LHVBL); 5 CPP 3 Oct; 2 CPP
 26 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: 2 Skinner Lane
 ORAN 7 Sep (LHVBL); 15 ORAN 7 Sep
 (LHVBL); 1 DUTC 18 Sep (EA,RN); 1
 EGR 27 Sep (LHVBL).
Killdeer: 90 Skinner Lane ORAN 7 Sep.
Am. Oystercatcher: few MC 12 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: 2 DUTC 2 Sep
 (AM,BM,OW).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Cape Pond SULL
 1 Nov.
Com. Snipe: 1 CPP 9 Nov (LB).
 jaeger, sp: 1 EGR 26 Nov(LHVBL).
Franklin's Gull: 1 CPP 25 Nov (LB).
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Newburgh 12 Oct; 1
 PP 21 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 PP 14 Nov
 (LHVBL).
Glaucous Gull: 1 Ashokan Reservoir 14
 Nov (BC,AF)
Common Tern: few MC 12 Sep.
Forster's Tern: few MC 12 Sep.
Black Tern: 1 MC 12 Sep (LHVBL).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Lenoir Nature
 Preserve 12 Oct, late.
Short-eared Owl: 1 CPP 5 Oct; 2 MC 3
 Nov; 4 Walkill NWR 21 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: 37 White Plains 1 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: well reported,
 much more common this migration than
 in years past.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Hunter
 Road, SULL 11 Nov (JW).
N. Shrike: 1 Galeville 8 Nov (LHVBL).
Blue-headed Vireo: last 1 Vasser Farms
 17 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Bashakill 12 Sep
 (LHVBL); 1 Rye Nature Center 27 Sep
 (LHVBL).
Com. Raven: reported on both sides of
 the Hudson.
Horned Lark: PP 1 Nov; 6 CPP 7 Nov;
 few MC 15 Nov; few EGR 15 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few
 reports, absent in many places.
Carolina Wren: many reports, numbers
 are back up.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 ROCK 19
 Sep, early (LHVBL).
Am. Pipit: 1 CPP 20 Sep, early (LHVBL);
 10 CPP 26 Oct; 20 CPP 7 Nov; few MC 15
 Nov; few EGR 15 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: 1 albino MC 25 Oct
 (LHVBL).

WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler: first fall report 1 Kisco Swamp 5 Sep; last report 1 Port Chester 25 Nov.

N. Parula: first fall report, 1 Lenoir 8 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: first fall report 1 Kisco Swamp 5 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: first fall report 2 Woodstock 15 Sep.

Palm Warbler: first fall report 1 Kisco Swamp 5 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: first fall report 1 Kisco Swamp 5 Sep.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 Woodstock 15 Sep (AF).

Connecticut Warbler: 1 Hyde Park 5 Oct (BB).

Mourning Warbler: 1 Woodstock 15 Sep (AF); 1 CPP 4 Oct (LHVBL).

Wilson's Warbler: first fall report 1 Lenoir 8 Sep.

Canada Warbler: first fall report, 1 Doodletown 12 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 MC 27 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: first reported 1 CPP 7 Nov.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 MC 12 Sep (LHVBL); continued through 21 Oct.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 MC 20 Sep (LHVBL); 2 MC 27 Sep (LHVBL); continued into Oct, *nelsoni* or *alterus* forms; 4 MC 7 Nov, *subvirgatus* race

Fox Sparrow: first reported, 1 Westchester Community College 23 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 MC 12 Sep; 1 EGR 12 Sep; 1 PP 26 Sep; 3 Purchase 16 Oct (DP).

White-crowned Sparrow: well reported.

Lapland Longspur: 2 CPP 4 Oct (LHVBL); 1 Mt. Peter 16 Oct (TV); 1 EGR 24 Oct (LHVBL).

Snow Bunting: well reported.

Indigo Bunting: 1 PP 11 Oct (LHVBL).

Dickcissel: 1 CPP 18 Nov (LHVBL).

Rusty Blackbird: flock Tackamack Park ROCK 17 Oct; 85 Kisco Swamp, Mt. Kisco 25 Oct; 1 MC 3 Nov; few Buttercup Farm 31 Oct.

Purple Finch: very few reports.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Swan Lake, SULL 10 Oct; 20 Mt. Peter 16 Oct; few Stormville 27 Oct; 4 SULL early Dec.

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REGION 10-MARINE

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The weather for the season was warmer at the start, by 2°F for September, normal in the middle, and slightly warmer at the end. There were no extreme excursions in temperatures. Daytime highs were within reasonable bounds, as were nighttime lows. We were well into early November before the thermometer dipped below 40°. There was no semblance of fall, with one season just gradually drifting into another. The first cold snap occurred at Christmas, along with 1-2 inches of snow.

With the warm weather there was a gradually decreasing amount of rain. September was 0.44 inches below normal, October 0.79 inches below, and November 2.99 inches below. An inch fell on 26 November, preventing the month from being the second driest on record. Fall color was at least two weeks late, and the fall of leaves at least three.

This fall was notable for the extended mild weather and its effects on migration. Many birds appeared to drift through our Region in an ongoing dribble, while others were in noticeably larger than usual numbers. Both Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Orange-crowned Warblers, to name two, were widespread and stayed late. Large sparrow flights were absent for the most part; either because there were fewer birds or because the migration was spread over a longer period. Red-breasted Nuthatches also were scarce.

Some less common species were seen more frequently and in greater numbers, e.g. Red-headed Woodpecker, American Pipit, Dickcissel, and Blue Grosbeak. Most pipits fly over in migration and are identified by call. This year was unusual because of numerous reports of them feeding on the ground from Staten Island to the Hamptons. As for Dickcissel, for a few days there were four at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station, and there were many other widespread reports.

The Region had its share of rare birds. Not just rare, but highly unusual. The best bird of the Fall, just as it was for the Summer Season, had to be the **Broad-billed Sandpiper**. It barely got into the season being last seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 4 September. Other rarities were; a **Black Vulture** at the Staten Island landfill on 3 September, a bird

that should be looked for in our Region as it increases to the west and north of our area; a **Swainson's Hawk** on Great Gull Island, the first substantiated record for Long Island (photographed and documented); a **Long-billed Curlew** at The Sore Thumb; an adult and an immature **Sabine's Gull** at Democrat Pt. and Shinnecock, respectively; and two Cave Swallows at Riis Park. Some additional details follow.

Joseph DiCostanzo sent us the following report for the **Swainson's Hawk** (slightly edited here). "On the weekends of 18-20 September and again on 2-4 October, Helen Hays was out on Great Gull Island for some maintenance work. The group found a very dark, very tame buteo on the island. It also frequently hovered while feeding. A number of pictures were taken of the bird. It was a while before the pictures were sent to Helen here at the Museum. I saw the pictures for the first time Monday evening and immediately knew it was something good - my first thought being young Swainson's. Yesterday I looked at skins with Dean Amadon, George Barrowclough, Carol Griffiths, and Manny Levine here at the Museum and everyone agrees the bird is a young Swainson's Hawk. It is a young of the rufous or dark morph. The bird was very dark below with pale, barred undertail coverts. When perched the wings extend to the end of the tail, actually projecting slightly beyond in one photo. The five photos I have seen so far are quite lovely and there are apparently some more that we haven't received yet. The observers for the bird should be listed as Helen Hays, Lisa Neild, Melissa McClure, John and Margie Haggerty. We will be writing up a report for NYSARC".

The **Long-billed Curlew** was seen by John Fritz on the beach, flying westward from the Sore thumb area near Oak Beach on 23 September. There were no subsequent sightings. We received a copy of the NYSARC report.

Isaac Grant & Gene Herskovics reported seeing a **Cave Swallow** flying around at the entrance to the Riis Park Golf Course on Friday 27 November. It was later seen in the afternoon, and there were a two on Saturday, the next day. They were observed by many and photos were taken. The birds were not relocated on Sunday or subsequently. This is the second record for the state.

To the more mundane, birders on the morning of 4 October at Jones Beach saw hundreds of Snow Geese migrating all morning. These birds were moving south in unprecedented numbers and were seen and noted by observers all the way back to New England. The following is indicative of what was going on that day with first, details from the East and then to the North. Eric Salzman reported: "a spectacular flight of geese all day today over our Weesuck Creek/Shinnecock Bay property starting

almost at first light and continuing well on into the night. The early waves at dawn and the late ones at dusk were almost all Snow Geese, literally wave after wave with hundreds and thousands of birds flying high overhead. Of the flocks that could be well observed, numbers of 'Blue' Geese were also seen — something on the order of 5% to 10% overall. These flights were virtually all from the northeast to the southwest. These birds apparently come down the New England coast, cross Long Island Sound to the North Fork, and come down the Gardiner's and Peconic Bay system, crossing over to the South Shore at Flanders, a route that brings them right over our heads".

Richard L. Ferren, from Rhode Island reported (from the RI internet site) a "prodigious flight of Snow Geese passing through Rhode Island over the weekend of 10/3-5/98 during the annual Block Island birding weekend. This flight was a major eye-opener concerning the passage of this species through southern New England and was unprecedented in Rhode Island. A strong cold front associated with heavy low pressure in eastern Quebec passed through southern New England in the afternoon of Thursday, 10/1/98, followed by six straight days of persistent high pressure and clear skies. During most of Sunday, 10/4, sunny skies and scattered light clouds prevailed, with light NNE winds, and this day bore witness to a completely unprecedented flight of Snow Geese in Rhode Island".

The results of the FI Hawkwatch courtesy of Drew Panko, are both interesting and alarming. The larger raptors are doing well, but the smaller ones continue their downward spiral. American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk are substantially down from the 13 year average kept since the watch has been in existence. On a positive note, Northern Harrier and Osprey are up, with Osprey, at 412, breaking the previous season record set in 1993. Both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon had the second best year for both, with Merlin about equaling the number of American Kestrel instead of being about half the number. The number of Bald Eagles was six, a new high. Buteos, always rare on the outer beaches in migration, consisted of one Red-tailed Hawk at the watch and a second seen at Jones Beach West End.

A Red-necked Phalarope appeared at the island in front of the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station on 7-8 November. The plumage exhibited by the bird was that of a late immature, not recorded in any field guide. With the very far viewing distance, there was some question of an ID overlap with Red Phalarope. A study of the skins at the American Museum of Natural History confirmed the ID as a Red-necked Phalarope. This uncommon bird in very unfamiliar plumage gave a number of birders a lesson in identification.

There was a major eruption of **Franklin's Gulls** to the east of their normal range this Fall. The first seen in our Region was on Hook Pond on 13 November. Then a bird was seen on Georgica Pond on the 14th, at Shinnecock on the 15th, and finally Mecox on the 18th, perhaps the same bird.

The largest numbers of Black Terns in recent years were seen migrating along the ocean on 13 September when flocks of 340, 75 and 40 were seen at Montauk, Shinnecock and Fire Island, respectively. The Montauk total and the combined totals are the largest in our area since the early 70's.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CSP-Cupsogue State Park ; DP-Democrat Pt., FI; FI-Fire Island; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP-Forest Park; FIHW-Fire Island Hawk Watch; GKP-Great Kills Park, SI; JRP-Jacob Riis Park, JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEC-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; RSF-sod fields north of Riverhead; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; RF-Rottkamp Farm, Upper Brookville; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; VCP-Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: PL 9 Nov thru.

BLACK VULTURE: Staten Island land fill 3 Sep (HF).

Turkey Vulture: regular migrant this fall.

Greater White-fronted Goose: ad with orange bill Cutchogue 1-11 Nov; Marratooka Lake 2-15 Nov; Hook Pond 27 Nov, these may be the same bird.

Snow Goose: major flight through Region, est. 10,000 4 Oct, intro; 2 blue morph on East Pond, JBWR 15 Nov.

Tundra Swan: 4 GKP 14 Nov (CH); 15 Hook Pond 15 Nov, 8 from early Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: PP 14 Nov; 3 East Pond JBWR 15 Nov, records away from usual haunts.

King Eider: male MP 18 Oct.

Common Eider: 15 MP 13 Sep, first for season.

Harlequin Duck: PL from 14 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: CP Reservoir late Nov, rare location for a sea duck.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 412 FIHW, season total a new high; to 4 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 6 FIHW, season total a new high; these plus another half dozen were reported during migration throughout the Region, the exact total number remains unclear; 4 possibly 5 subadults at St. John's Pond, Cold Spring Harbor 16 Oct (NS).

N. Harrier: 325 FIHW, third best year ever.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 467 FIHW, down 39 % from 13 year average.

Broad-winged Hawk: Staten Island 29 Sep.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: imm Great Gull Island 18-20 Sep and again on 2-4 Oct (HH et al).

Am. Kestrel: 1606 FIHW, down 27 % from 13 year average.

Merlin: 1594 FIHW, season total second best year.

Peregrine Falcon: 213 FIHW, season total second best year.

Sora: PP 29 Sep; RE, unusual place; 10 days mid Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: 112 RSF 17 Sep, decreased to 140 by 27 Sep, still 40 on 28 Oct; small numbers elsewhere.

Am. Avocet: 2 JBWR 20 Sep - 7 Oct; 1 JBWR 10 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: considerable numbers reported thru late in the season, an Uncommon wintering species .

Upland Sandpiper: RSF 5, 21 Sep.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Sore Thumb 23 Sep, NYSARC report (JF).

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 JBWR 2-21 Sep; 3 JBWR 10 Oct, then 1 on 17 Oct.

Marbled Godwit: 3 JBWR 2 Sep; 1 CSP 7 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: a few 3 Sep - 10 Oct South Shore LI.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Georgica Pond 15 Nov (DK).

Purple Sandpiper: PL and Atlantic Beach jetties early Nov thru.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER: JBWR thru 4 Sep.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: up to 12 RSF Sep; a few others in Sep.

Ruff: female JBWR 4 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 30 JBWR 17 Oct; 12 Massapequa Preserve 10 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: JBWR 7 Sep; JBWE 7-8 Nov.

Parasitic Jaeger: MP 13, 20 Sep, 18 Oct; 6 MP 12 Oct; 3 FI 1 Nov.

Laughing Gull: to mid Nov.

Franklin's Gull: 1 probably the same

bird at Hook Pond 13 Nov; Georgica Pond 14 Nov; SHIN 15 Nov; MEC 18 Nov
Little Gull: DP 5 Sep.

Black-headed Gull: MEC 11, 18 Nov;
Georgica Pond 7 Sep thru; RMSP 21 Oct;
MEC 11, 27 Nov; Eastport 27 Nov; Port
Jefferson 27 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: no longer rare,
small numbers throughout Region where
gulls congregate 23 Sep thru.

SABINE'S GULL: ad DP 6 Sep (AL, AG);
imm SHIN 20 Sep (AL)

Caspian Tern: 25 Sagg Pond 17 Sep (JA),
this is the largest coastal concentration ever
reported, the previous high being 5; small
numbers on South Shore to 29 Oct.

Royal Tern: large numbers resting on
Robins Island sand spit jutting into the
North Race 26 Aug - 1 Nov, max 51 on 18
Aug; elsewhere small numbers seen thru
the season along entire South Shore to 14
Nov.

Sandwich Tern: 3 Democrat Pt 16 Sep (JF).

Com. Tern: to 11 Nov.

Forster's Tern: to 1 Nov.

Black Tern: 75 SHIN 9, 13 Sep; 340 MP 13
Sep (AL); 40 FI inlet 13 Sep; 25 SHIN 20
Sep; 40 MP 20 Sep.

Razorbill: 16 MP 26 Nov.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: roosting in tree CP, wintering.

Short-eared Owl: 2 GKP 2 Nov; JBWE 8
Nov thru.

N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWE 8 Nov.

Chimney Swift: thru 28 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: thru 24 Nov.

Red-headed Woodpecker: CP from 5 Oct,
reaching 7 by late Nov; many others in
migration.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: thru 25 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: thru 29 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: to 29 Sep.

Great Crested Flycatcher: to 4 Oct.

W. Kingbird: JBWE 9-10 Sep; MP 13 Sep;
RMSP 2 Oct; Nappeague 17 Oct.

N. Shrike: Dune Road, SHIN 28 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: to 17 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: PP 21 Nov (RJ).

Warbling Vireo: to 29 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: to 22 Oct.

CAVE SWALLOW: 2 JRP 27-28 Nov (IG,
GH et al), the second record for the state.

Barn Swallow: to 28 Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce.

Sedge Wren: Gilgo 3 Oct.

Am. Pipit: most migrants flying over, but
groups on the ground at VCP, FI, JBCH;
others.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: to 12 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: JBWR 5 Sep; CP
9 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: to 4 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 12 Oct thru.

Nashville Warbler: PP 11 Nov (RJ).

N. Parula: to 1 Nov.

Yellow Warbler: to 17 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: to 15 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: to 2 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: to 4 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: to 16 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: to 4 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: to 11 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: to 24 Oct.

Am. Redstart: to 10 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: JBWR 26-27 Sep.

Ovenbird: to 5 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: to 12 Oct.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CLP 26 Sep.

Kentucky Warbler: CLP 3 Sep.

Connecticut Warbler: JBWR 5-7 and 13 Sep; CP 11 Sep; PP 17 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: Sands Pt 24 Oct (GQ)

Com. Yellowthroat: Bryant Park, Manhattan (42nd St) 20 Nov.

Wilson's Warbler: to 16 Oct.

Canada Warbler: to 23 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 9-17 Sep.

Clay-colored Sparrow: half dozen 9 Sep - 8 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: VCP to NY city parks thru 25 Oct, more reports than usual.

Lark Sparrow: a few early Sep - mid Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: PP 5 Nov

Lapland Longspur: 3 FBF 10 Oct; 1 JBWE

12 Nov; 4 CSP 15 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: to 25 Oct.

Blue Grosbeak: MP 12-24 Sep; MEC 26 Sep; FIHW 28 Sep, 2 Oct; CP 5, 23 Oct; 2 JBWE 12-18 Oct; 2 MP 18 Oct; Gilgo 10-18 Oct; 2 Piping Rock Country Club 20 Oct; RF 6 Nov.

Dickcissel: more reports than usual 12 Sep thru; 4 JBWE mid Oct, 1 stayed to 8 Nov; JRP 29 Nov.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: JBWR 23 Sep.

Bullock's Oriole: female in vicinity FI bird banding station 27 Sep (SM).

White-winged Crossbill: 1 JBWE 10 Nov.

Pine Siskin: very few this fall

Evening Grosbeak: CP 1 Sep; 2 CP 9 Sep.
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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Readers are invited to submit short pieces of interesting sightings, observations or incidents, etc., that do not require full-blown article treatment. No bibliography is necessary unless the author wishes to submit one. If a photograph is included, we require either a black-and-white glossy print or a color negative which we will convert to a b&w print. If the editor believes the note should be expanded to a full article, you will be invited to do so.

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